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## AN ETHNOGRAPHIC LOOK AT SUBURBIA

As someone who was not raised in the vast expanses that are America's suburbs, I felt a barrier interacting with students who were here on campus. I decided that if they won't experience living on an island, I guess I am going to experience pavement and strip malls. I set off for Maryland with the purpose of gaining intimate cultural knowledge that no AnSo class had covered for me.

For accommodations, my family chose a hotel. Now, I know you are thinking, "Griffin, hotels are not just in Maryland, this makes no sense!" and to that I will say "correct". So we decided on a lake house themed hotel. I found the concept confusing, because usually the water should surround the house, but to each their own. As we settled into the hotel I realized that even lake house themed would barely scratch the surface of gaining understanding. Despite taking the necessary steps to decorate walls with 80's esque quilts and enough wood paneling to restore the Amazon, I had my work set out for me.

When it came to filling our time we thought what better way to know the local culture than to see where they shop. We learned of a local enclosed bazaar that is quite popular. We traversed several miles of paved roads and found ourselves at the Columbia Mall. As we trekked through the stalls, we realized that we needed to stop for sustenance. Luckily a Smoothie King was nearby. Unfortunately this proved to be an unfortunate interaction with local cuisine. For suburbanites, it is apparently okay for simple syrup to be in juices and to include tropical fruits despite not requesting them. I thought our English would still work with the local dialect, but I guess that NO BANANA does not have a direct translation in the Old Line State

As we continued on with our cultural exchange we looked for their local millinery. J.Crew occupied the second story of the bazaar and provided us with plenty of options to fit in suburbia.

In the Land of Queen Mary, religion seemed to be the next way to immerse myself. Following a traditional weekly ritual service at a church, my sister remarked about the impracticality of suburban wear for these occasions. To quote, "Manolos just don't seem to be made for Catholics". While Mr Blahnik's creations might not work with Hassocks, the service was lovely.

Even the priest seemed to get into suburban culture himself. Besides his traditional vestments, he accessorized with an Apple Watch. [Authors note on priest: He managed to mispronounce Laura (Lara for those wondering) and made a Les Mis reference mid service ]

As the weekend came to a close, I came to realize something. The reverence needed for the suburbs was not something I bought in my duffle. As I look to my future travels, I plan to conquer America's paved underbellies.

*-Griffin Conley, Foreign Correspondent*

# PEOPLE WHO HAVE A LOT OF SEX TOYS

- Pete Davidson** - look at who he pulls
- Michelle Obama** - she pegs
- Bella Thorne** - she can't read the instructions but can still use them
- Gordon Ramsey** - did someone say degradation kink?
- Ru Paul** - a DRAG QUEEN?
- Lil Nas X** - honey it's decor
- Kesha** - google kesha condoms
- Jeffree Star** - he loves to yak about his collection
- Kelly and Christi and Dr. Holly and Gianna and Kira from Dance Moms** - they need to release the stress somehow
- Mom from Wizards of Waverly Place** - shes just hot
- Bob Duncan and actor who played Bob Duncan** - don't ask questions you don't want the answers to
- Quinn Pensky** - she engineers her own
- Jenna Marbles** - her and Julien get kinky in the best and most healthy kind of way
- Ms Mojo** - babe.
- Tony the Tiger** - sex toys, they're great!
- Ms Frizzle** - Arnold isn't the only one that school bus has been inside of
- Alice from Twilight** - no literally
- Christina Yang** - Burke and Owen aren't doing enough
- Coconut Head** - ...duh
- Green M&M** - she had an ad campaign to make her LESS sexy

*-Sophie, Katie, and Nicole*

# THIS IS THE TALE OF KARL

When I was in Austria I met a Man. His name was Karl, and he was very lonely.

He had worked at the University of Vienna since 1971, when he began his lengthy career as a historian. During that time he met, fell in love with, and survived his lovely wife. He liked to sit at the cafe and drink coffee, or go the Heuriger and get a nice glass of wine. Every now and then he would go for a walk, hands clasped behind his back, smiling and waving at the his old students (now grown up with jobs and families of their own).

I had the honor of joining him on these walks. As we walked he showed each building as if they were a part of him, the universtiy where he studied and then tought, the opera house where his father once played, the *Gemeindebauten*--those great bastions of socialism--where he grew up. Each building as much a part of him as the wrinkles that creased his face, and framed his eyes, full of sadness and mirth.

He wrote murder mysteries in his free time. It gave him something to do. He liked to laugh, if it means anything to you.

*-Will Kelsey*



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