Quickies

Ethos Magazine

Britta Roppe
*Iowa State University*

Andreas Haffar
*Iowa State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos)

**Recommended Citation**

Available at: [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos/vol2016/iss1/2](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos/vol2016/iss1/2)
Foreign Fiascos
The study abroad stories you don’t see on Facebook

BY BRITTA ROPPE

*Names have been changed or shortened so you don’t make fun of them in person (how dare you)*

Studying abroad can bring an onslaught of wonderful experiences, but it can also bring a few cross-cultural issues. Here are a few that made us laugh.

You Speaka My Language?

Aubrey Foulk went on a two-week-long research trip to Ingey, Norway with a few other Iowa State Students and professors.

“On our way to the research station, we ended up having a layover in one of the cities that we were at, and they were having a huge bike race [and show],” she says. “They were doing this BMX bike-racing thing, and the announcer guy ended up grabbing me out of the crowd and dragging me into the middle of their performance—but I don’t speak Norwegian. He kept telling me to do things, and I didn’t know what to do. So I’m just standing there and the [BMX] guy is jumping over me and doing all these fancy things, and he was trying to get me to put my arms out, but he had to keep motioning because that was the only way the language thing was working. I was just standing there and smiling at him like ‘I don’t know what I’m supposed to do.’ All of these people are standing around watching me and I don’t know what’s happening. I don’t know what’s going on!”

Out Of Bed Experience

Allie* studied abroad in Hochschule in Mannheim, Germany. One weekend, her and a group of friends hopped on an overnight bus to Amsterdam. “We got [to Amsterdam] at 8 in the morning, and there were a couple of people in our group who knew a little bit about the scene,” she explained. “They said ‘OK, we’re going to go visit a coffee shop.’ And I was like, ‘Perfect! We’re going to go to a coffee shop, we’re going to get some breakfast, and we’re going to get some coffee. I’m so excited!’ We go into a coffee shop, and there are six things on the menu—three of them are joints.”

Allie’s response? “This is not a coffee shop! What am I supposed to get here?” She got her first space bar, a breakfast bar with weed in it. “It was the first time I ever [tried weed]. I was so confused. I don’t know what to expect, and when you eat it, it takes a while for it to digest, so I didn’t know what to expect, and when you eat it, it takes a while for it to digest, and I guess. I ate it when we were back at our hostel. I was like ‘Awe, this isn’t kicking in. I’m not feeling anything. What a waste of six euro.’”

Allie took a nap (since the bar was having no affect) after they arrived at their hotel in late morning.

“I woke up from my nap, and it’s kind of a body high when you eat them, I remember waking up and feeling like ‘Oh my God, I can’t move my body’ and so I was just lying there and my eyes were moving back and forth really fast, and I was like ‘I’m awake but no one knows because I can’t move my body.’ I felt like such an idiot because I was just lying there just listening to everything going on and I was like, ‘This is so cool!’ It didn’t last very long though, and after a while I got up and I was like, ‘Guys, I just had a blast by myself on my bed!’”

River Of Shit

Jackie* went on a month long trip with the International Student Volunteers to Thailand.

“It was completely culturally different,” she says. “The markets would have raw squids out everywhere that had just been sitting there, [and] people would buy them and eat them.”

She got to spend her first two weeks helping care for elephants on an elephant reserve by washing them in the river Khwae. Side note: standing and swimming down stream from pooping elephants is not a good idea.

Speaking of using the bathroom, Jackie wasn’t feeling too well one night so she retired to bed early and soon discovered that she hadn’t recovered the next day.

“I thought I was better and we were building this wall to keep the elephants in and I got all ready to go out and to build the wall, [and] all of a sudden I was like, oh my god, I’m going to shit my pants. I ran as fast as I could to the bathroom, but there are steps before the bathroom and as I’m running down the steps, I just seriously pooped my pants [on the steps]. I couldn’t even believe it. It’s like 120 degrees out, I’m in this foreign country and I have to wash my clothes in the river.”

5 Things You Can Do With This Magazine
(Other than read it)

1. Use it as a fan—a cool, culturally relevant fan
2. Make cryptic, ransom-style notes
3. Carve it out and use it to hide a (very small) secret item
4. Glue on eyes and use it as a puppet
5. Collect them all! (Please don’t actually try to do this)
What The Hell To Do In Iowa - - - - -
How to have fun amidst all the corn

BY ANDREAS HAFFAR

You find yourself smack dab in the middle of the United States, feeling deprived of fun and exciting things to do or see. You may ask yourself, "What the hell is there to do and see in Iowa?" We're here to answer that age-old question by presenting a handful of ideas to save you from your enervating boredom.

The World’s Largest Concrete Gnome

WHERE: Ames (Reiman Gardens)

In this garden, standing at an impressive 15 feet tall and weighing in at 3,500 pounds, hailing from Reiman Gardens, ladies and gentlemen, the World’s Largest Concrete Gnome, Elwood. This colossal lawn ornament was created by Andy and Connie Kautza in Wisconsin at the request of Reiman Gardens staff. In spring 2010, the bearded beast moved to Iowa State University to live life as a full-time outdoor model—the profession most gnomes tend to pursue. Coming up on Elwood’s five-year anniversary this spring, he’s still a sight to behold. Iowa State students are given free admission to Reiman Gardens with their student ID.

Zombie Burger (original)

WHERE: Des Moines and West Des Moines (45 min. south of Ames)

Few restaurants in the state, if any, can compete with the post-apocalyptic-themed Zombie Burger. The original, located in downtown Des Moines, features a number of cleverly-named and hunger-quenching burgers such as the Juan of the Dead, They’re Coming to Get You Barbara and the Undead Elvis in various sizes or “taps” such as single, double or—at the risk of limiting your mobility and making you groan, much like a zombie—a triple. A Zombie Burger experience isn’t complete without indulging in the restaurant’s “Drink Lab,” whether it be a Zombie Bride Wedding Cake Shake or the bacon-included Chuck Norris “headshot” drink. But before you embark on this, there are a few things you should be aware of; you’ll want to bring a first-aid kit and the food has a diabetic level of calories. You can’t say we didn’t warn you.

Villisca Murder House

WHERE: Villisca (2.5 hours southwest of Ames)

Attention believers of the supernatural and the superstitious: we recommend taking a trip to Villisca, Iowa—at your own risk. For just over a hundred years, stories circulated around the isolated town of Villisca regarding the mysterious and eerie Ax Murder House where in 1912, six children and two adults were savagely murdered in their sleep. To this day, the case remains unsolved despite the number of possible suspects and theories about who committed this horrendous act and why. Since the house opened as an exhibit in the 1990s, paranormal investigation teams and ghost enthusiasts have flocked to examine the historic spot after multiple stories of bizarre and paranormal experiences surfaced. Visitors are able to take day or overnight tours of the house with prices depending on the number of people in a group. Braving a night alone in the “not-so abandoned” home will cost you around $80.

Maquoketa Caves State Park

WHERE: Maquoketa (3 hours east of Ames)

Iowa may be known for it’s abundance of farmland, but perhaps one of the more beautiful and visually-striking sites in the “corn state” is the Maquoketa Caves State Park. This is an intriguing destination for a weekend of activities including camping, fishing, picnicking and hiking the six-mile trails that feature the impressive 17-ton “Balanced Rock.” However, its 16 unique caves, the most of any park in Iowa, are what set it apart from the rest. You’ll need headlights and flashlights for some of these caves, while others require you to crawl through on your stomach—so be prepared to get down and dirty. It’s a solid getaway for lovers of the outdoors.

Don’t Be The Person Who...

- Walks too confidently in front of a bus
- Takes up two seats on the bus
- Skypes in the library
- Posts a screenshot of a “funny” text you sent
- Wears Hawkeye clothing around campus
- Drinks soda for breakfast
- Coughs in class without covering your mouth
- Has a 300-second snap story
- Relies on coffee to be their personality
- Complains that cell phones are ruining our generation
- Gives attention to radicalists in the free-speech zone
- Types an ellipses in every text...

Did You Know?

The SHOP (Students Helping Our Peers) is a student-run food pantry located in 2616 Food Sciences Building. It’s geared toward ISU students and faculty, but operates on an anonymous basis and anyone in need is welcome to check it out.