

The Yahoos and Boochoos of Atlantic City

from the perspective of an F-1 Tourist-Student

by **anna mendoza**

There are many pros to being a foreigner at Bryn Mawr. One, you get to go trick-or-treating at 20 by claiming that it is unheard of in your country and that this is the first time you've done it. Two, you get to have the entire dorm to yourself when everyone goes home for American Thanksgiving. Three, you get to go on free field trips to famous cities up and down the Eastern Corridor during Fall and Spring Break—the most recent one being the trip to Atlantic City organized by the Association of International Students. Of course, you might ask why I am writing about a trip that only involved 15 people in this entire school and is long over. In answer to that, I'll ask whether you'd be interested to know what I, as a stuck-up Canadian, think of your country.

In all honesty, it's actually pretty cool. One of my greatest life goals is to get dual citizenship. And learn the correct pronunciation of the word "tomorrow."

A lot of us international students are pretty amazed by the sights and sounds of Capitol Hill, Times Square, the Boardwalk—not necessarily because they are greater than anything we've ever seen, but because they are unlike other things we've seen before. To illustrate what I mean, let me catalog just a few of the most memorable things about the Atlantic City Trip that took place last Saturday.

Yahoo #1—The Beach

After spending months trapped in the Bi-Co bubble, it's a great relief to enjoy some sun, sand, and surf. We took off our shoes and ran into the freezing cold waves like a bunch of 8-year-olds. The best thing about that shoreline was that it was clean by most standards, and scenic enough to prompt one of my friends to take over 40 photos.

Boohoo #1—The unconscious person lying facedown in the sand

Turned out he was just sleeping, but he lay still enough for us to question whether he was dead. It was a pretty disconcerting experience.

Yahoo #2—The Aquarium

We went to one that attempted to educate tourists on the sea life around Atlantic City. There was a tank of jellyfish, a school of sea-horses, a pufferfish, a crab-and-starfish petting zoo, a giant eel, a spiny lizard named Joe or Jim—most of which were cute, all of which were fascinating.

Boohoo #2—The Aquarium

Unfortunately, the aquarium also seemed to represent a bunch of oddities that were accidentally caught by fishermen and were being put up for show. In one tank a nurse shark and a sea turtle were being exhibited together amongst a variety of random edibles. Needless to say, the shark was lying inert in the bottom corner of the tank, while the sea turtle floundered up and down one wall as though trying to find a way out.

Yahoo #3—The Boardwalk

Walk down the street and you'll find a thousand things to seize your

attention: Convention Center, casinos, bargain stores, Ripley's museum, paintball, midway, psychics, pony rides, Mississippi saloon, Taj Mahal, Aztec cafe, Trump Hotel, street mimes, kid drummers, theaters, arcades—not the place for neurotic people with sensitive nervous systems. Definitely the place for college students on Spring Break.

Boohoo #3—The Animals on the Boardwalk

I think I saw more captive wildlife on that one day compared to the rest of my years. The giant lizard in a cage that barely permitted it to turn around, the hermit crabs dying in their painted shells (by God did they stink), the horses being made to carry round after round of tourists on the beach. Why, I ask, why?

Yahoo #4—The Casino

It was the first time I've ever been in a casino. I was surprised to find that it wasn't an elite or socialite hangout but a place where ordinary people in golf shirts and jeans are at liberty to try (and try, and try) their luck. I was also surprised by the sheer number of games—the only ones I knew were roulette, blackjack, poker, and slots, but it turns out there were many more.

Boohoo #4—my buddies Ji and Sumana

...who told us they had each won a hundred bucks (thus dinner would be on them) and LIED.

Yahoo #5—The goods

Selin, one of the AIS presidents, who hardly knew how to play the claw machine, won a stuffed leopard on her first try. I was really envious because I had lost three pairs of quarters on that damn game and still hadn't gotten anything, but felt better when she offered to name the leopard after me. Plus there were some really good souvenir shops selling craft jewelry and the like. Ji won a little purple dog from the balloon-and-darts stall. Lots of mementos all around.

Boohoo #5—The psychic who ripped me off

And said that I was angry at my mother and that my friends didn't understand me and that my romantic life was on rough seas, all of which is shit because I love my mommy in Vancouver and my friends at BMC (especially everyone in the AIS crew!) and because I don't even *have* a romantic life to begin with. Good thing I only wasted a dollar.

I should also mention, for the sake of accuracy, that there were some non-AIS students on the trip, and at least one person from outside of Bryn Mawr. For the most part, however, we were tourists not only from another part of the East Coast but from altogether different countries. And I have to say that Atlantic City is one of the most cultural places I've ever visited in the United States. So cultural, in fact, that it's as if culture exploded.

To conclude, thanks to AIS presidents Danny, Namita and Selin for a lively experience. I know this is only one of the many more AIS

Anglophilia

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don't have to do something right away, just do it before it gets really bad." Not quite as concise as the classic.

On occasion, Gervais and Merchant share anecdotes about their lives. Gervais claims he is just the ringleader, and that the title of the show "is farcical. It's really The Karl Pilkington Show." Most of Merchant's stories involve his astounding height (he's 6 foot 7 inches tall) and the trouble gets into because of it.

The free 12-week run of the show is over, and new podcasts are available to download weekly at Audible.com for a cost of \$6.95 for four episodes, or \$1.95 per episode. The current run started February 28, and another four-week run is scheduled to start in the fall. The episodes are also available for free at www.kingricky.co.uk, if you don't want to pay. (I'm a fool, I paid for the episodes before finding out about this site, but I really don't mind paying—it's quality entertainment.)

The episodes from the 12-week run are available at audible.com as well, at cost. And if you're interested in listening to some of their more vintage stuff (which is totally free!), go to www.xfm.co.uk/ricky, and you can listen to older

Monkey News and Pilkington's lyrical interpretations of such classic songs as Pinball Wizard ("If he's deaf, dumb and blind, why does he care that he's good at pinball?") and Wonderful Tonight ("It's about a little handicapped fella.").

The Ricky Gervais show has been the number one downloaded podcast on iTunes since December and has entered the Guinness Book of World Records. It has achieved millions of downloads and Karl Pilkington is quickly becoming a global phenomenon as an internet icon. There are even t-shirts featuring a picture of Pilkington and his famous quote "I could eat a knob at night" available at cafepress.com.

This podcast is hilarious. It's ideal background sound while you're grading papers, cleaning your room, knitting, or de-stressing after a rough day. There is nothing else on TV or the internet that will make you laugh as hard as The Ricky Gervais Show. And since Gervais and Merchant, the geniuses behind *The Office*, are a part of this show, it is guaranteed to be a good time. Check it out; you will not regret it. Go on and have a good laugh.

In the next issue, I will be reviewing Amber, the new album by Clearlake

Cheers!



Lady Oracle

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means: watching *Singing in the Rain!* Then instead of all grumbling about the weather, we will be a campus full of singers! Come on you know you want to... "...What a glorious feeling I'm happy again..."

Capricorn (December 23 - January 20)

Instead of driving yourself insane this month, do it to your friends! Tell them laughter is the best medicine so they should watch *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* to help them de-stress. Then, quote the

daytrips to come and would encourage anyone who spends their middle-of-semester breaks on campus to join us next time. The deal will include free transportation to and from an exciting tourist venue in the U.S., a reason to procrastinate on whatever work your profs have assigned for the break, and a chance to hang out with one of Bryn Mawr's friendliest and most diverse student groups.

movie to them until they want to kill you. Tell them they need to de-stress again and should watch a movie. Pop in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Repeat as desired.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19) Brighten up your dreary days: take a road trip, play grown-up dress-up, sing opera while riding on GIGANTIC stilettos. If you don't have all the necessary parts, rent *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* and pretend you do!

Pisces (February 20- March 20)

Since Hell Week ended, you are left without a conspiracy to follow. Lady O recommends you look around you... see Thomas, notice the architecture? Doesn't it look like something you've seen before? Maybe...in a Harry Potter movie!? Rent the whole *Harry Potter* collection and see how many similarities you can find. Then drink for every one.