Russians

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Abstract
In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Once, I found out that if you save an entire semester's worth of work for the last day, you'll have to stay up till 4 A.M. to finish it all. In that moment you will realize something else, that there really is a 4 A.M. I thought that it had been made up until that day. I thought that the Russians made that up to make America feel lazy. It worked, too. I felt lazy because I was never up at 4 A.M. to do any work. Then, when I turned fifteen and I started learning about Russians in history class, I realized they were sneaky enough to invent a 4 A.M. I realized that they do things like that all the time, making up things to make Americans feel lazy and bad about themselves. I was so irritated with them about the whole 4 A.M. thing that I didn't speak to a Russian for years."

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Then, at the end of my sophomore year in college, I realized that they didn’t make up the 4 A.M. thing at all. I wasn’t sure how to react, my whole belief system had taken a vital blow. I then decided to stop my anti-Russian propaganda in its tracks. I had a whole speech prepared about how Russians work too hard and all sorts of things that would make them feel lousy about themselves, but I can’t bring myself to do anything about that now. At the moment, I am on the fence about Russians. I want to embrace their culture, but I was up at 4 A.M. once, I am not sure if I can do it on a routine basis.

-David Silpe *