

TWIFYO

The World Is Your Oyster

Why my work experience paid off!

10 Great Gap Year websites to explore

Short Stories

Eye opening Gap Years

Budget days out

Essay Hints and Tips

Local photography

Nevada, Utah & Arizona: Travels in the USA!

True University Tales: Durham

A Semester in the States

And much more inside...

Cover image: The Grand Canyon, Arizona, USA, taken by J. L. Salkild

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A word from the Editor

I am sure you all want to know how TWIYO came into existence? Well thanks to an introductory talk at my University on publishing from the successful entrepreneur Ed Pereira, I decided to have a shot at designing my own magazine. With your help the magazine will grow and flourish and therefore I am welcoming all submissions. Anything from artwork or photography, short fiction and poetry, to gig, film and book reviews. We would also love to hear tales from your travels or place of work and any exciting real life experiences. If you're a budding writer like myself then this is your chance to see your work in print!

I hope you all enjoy the first issue of TWIYO and I look forward to hearing from you all.

Please E-mail all submissions to: j_salk@talktalk.net



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Harriet Smalley

Why my work experience paid off!

Welcome to the world of 9-5

I know how hard it is when you are our age to decide what to do with your future. There are so many choices when it comes to starting your career or going into further education – university, vocational courses, etc – but for some people higher education is not the best way to go. This was the case for me.

I decided against going to university. I initially planned to go and therefore dragged myself to open days all over the country, looking at various Event Management courses. However, I just did not see myself being happy at any of them. As soon as I realised this I started sending emails to all the local events management companies I knew to see if they would consider taking me on for some unpaid work experience. After a few weeks I had a phone call from one of them, asking me to come in for an interview.

At the interview I asked why they had contacted me instead of all the other applicants. It turned out that this company had never taken on work experience applicants before unless they were at university level. I felt truly honoured to be taken seriously at such a young age. The interviewer told me that it was due to the email I had written, and said that as soon as she read it she wanted to meet me. I cannot remember to this day what I wrote in that email but all I know is I was honest and passionate.

So I got my weekly work experience placement. It was only half a day a week, but it provided me with valuable skills such as working in a corporate environment and fitting in well with members of a team. My manager was immediately fascinated by how young and yet how ambitious I was, and it was only eight months before I was offered a permanent position within the company in a role that had actually been created for me. I had even signed the contract before I got my A level results!

To date I have been in this role for about a year and a half, full-time, and have loved every minute. I have been to countless events – shows featuring everything from books to jewellery, ships to entire continents – and met some amazing people. I am gaining a really good insight into the industry I am working in and where I want to go in life.

I hope this goes some way to show that even without a degree it is possible to achieve what you want in life. As long as you are passionate and willing to work hard you will get where you want to be.



**'for some people higher education
is not the best way to go'**

Summer 2010

Nevada, Utah & Arizona:



Three glorious months in America, a period of time that in my opinion, went far too quickly as I'm sure you'll agree the best holidays always do. Eight weeks were spent working as a Photography Counsellor at Camp Mah-Kee-Nac summer sports camp for boys, in Lenox, Massachusetts

Travels in the USA

and the last three weeks were spent travelling. The last ten days of my unforgettable trip were spent in the southwest, in Nevada, Arizona and Utah.

I chose to travel with Trek America, a company that specialises in small group trek groups and offers tours from anything from three to sixty-four days in length. My group was made up of twelve other young people, the oldest being twenty-eight, myself and a trek guide. Nine of the group were all from England but one of the guys was an Australian and there was one French girl and another from Germany.

Our travels began and ended in Las Vegas, Nevada. In the top right hand corner my trek mates pose on Fremont Street and below there is a snapshot of some iconic palm trees against a perfect sky. We spent our final night in the USA in Sin city and the night throbbled with music and

glowed with neon lights. At nineteen I was too young to drink but in that atmosphere it could truly be believed that with a little liquor one could be persuaded to do just about anything. As I walked beneath the glittering light show on Fremont Street it was with the inevitable knowledge that most of the dancing people around me would recall little of the night by tomorrow morning.

On the opposite page you will see a classy painting of Marilyn Monroe on the wall of someone's house and a picturesque yard with the saddles hanging out ready for use. Both of these were taken on the famous 'Mother Road' Route 66, we also stopped in the trademark town of Route 66; Seligman. This town is great fun, full





full of old cars and signs, gift shops overflowing with memorabilia and really extreme stereotypical American diners.

Our accommodation for the entire trip was camping just outside the National Parks we visited and before dawn on our second day we crawled out of our tents bleary eyed and Mex



(our trek leader) drove us to the Grand Canyon for sunrise! That day we hiked five miles into the Canyon and back, doesn't seem like very far but you have to imagine the heat. Above you will see a warning sign; 'Your Brain on Sun', as you can see the temperature was one-hundred and ten degrees Fahrenheit in the shade! We hiked out to Plateau Point and were rewarded with an amazing three hundred and sixty degree



view of the Canyon as well as being able to see straight down to the Colorado River.

The return journey took twice as long as coming down. There was a joke amongst the hikers that going down was optional but coming back up is mandatory. On the previous page you will see an image of the mile long stretch out to the Point, the only part of the hike where there was absolutely NO shade whatsoever. There are also a couple of pictures of the mules which take tourists up and down the Canyon, these tours are so popular that you have to book *two years* in advance to get on one.

The walk out to the point was one of the hardest parts of the hike, almost as hard as the final ascent back to the top. The front cover image is of one of my trek mates relishing a drink at the water station halfway out to the Point.

Below: Jumping off a fallen tree in Bryce's Canyon one of Utah's five National Parks.



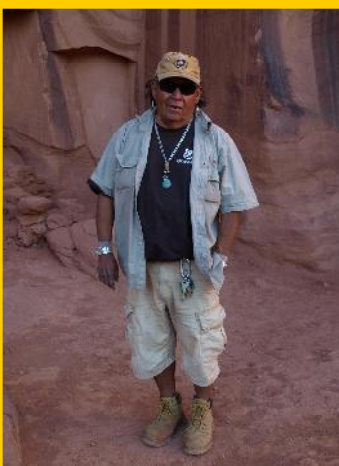
Above: My Trek-Mates and I in Monument Valley

We did a great deal of hiking on this trip but we also spent one night at an authentic cowboy ranch in Utah. The image of the man in the bottom left hand corner of the previous page is a modern day cowboy, weed killer spray can in hand and his leg enveloped with a knee support as a result of much hard riding, although, thankfully, still complete with a pair of well worn cowboy boots.

In the famous Monument Valley we were given a jeep tour by a Native American Indian called Jimmy. He is a Navajo and he told us of the many significances that the Valley holds to the Navajo tribe. For example; two of the rock pinnacles resemble a left and right hand with gloved fingers and a thumb and are known to the Navajos as 'Mother's Hands'. After this enlightening tour of the valley, including a show of live Native American music, he drove us on to his log and mud built home called a Hogan which, it seemed

to us, was in the middle of nowhere in the dusty desert. We were served with a delicious meal as we sat on the floor and he told us about a CD of his native music composed by himself that is being released.

One of our last hikes was in Bryce's Canyon which boasts unique rock formations called Hoodoos and our final hike was in the early hours of the morning up to



'Angel's Landing'. A terrifically steep but truly worthwhile climb, the destination is a high peak at the end of a valley that beholds such a view that it is justly named as you can easily imagine such a creature flying down the valley to land on 'Angel's Landing'.

We did much more than just hike in these intense ten days. We had an off road tour in a Hummer, a car that can drive at 40 degrees horizontally and 70 degrees vertically, we mountain biked on the most famous mountain biking trail in Utah and we waded down 'The Narrow's' a river walled by two sides of rock which goes so narrow at one point that you can touch both sides by standing in the middle and stretching out your arms.

This was a Trip of a lifetime and my first three month stretch of travelling alone/with friends abroad. Although it will be by no means the last!

Budget Days Out: Brighton Beach

A great day out for you and three friends for under 35 pounds* each!

<http://www.thetrainline.com/>

Return train tickets:

Hampton—Brighton —Hampton, changing at Clapham Junction and taking approx 1 hr 36 minutes each way.

Total for four people: 60.00 pounds

For the individual: 15.00 pounds

For more information explore:

<http://www.visitbrighton.com/>

Free:

- Browsing 'the Lanes', a quaint selection of independent shops inshore in the historic part of the town.
- Brighton Fishing Museum on the seafront in one of the Arches.
- Brighton Museum & Art Gallery in the Royal Pavilion gardens.

***Disclaimer: Prices correct at time of print. All information researched using up-to-date sources but all prices are subject to change.**

Volks Railway

Britain's oldest electric railway built in 1883, running every 15 minutes along the top of the beach from the Aquarium Station near Brighton Pier.

Return ticket: 2.80

- Lunch: Traditional Fish & Chips: 5.00 pounds
- Fun in the Arcade: 5.00 pounds
- Candy Floss or sweets: 3.00 pounds
- Crazy Golf (adjacent to Half-way station on Volk's Railway), 18 holes: 2.00 pounds

Total for one individual

Travel:	15.00
Lunch:	5.00
Sweets & extras:	3.00
Crazy Golf:	2.00
Arcade:	5.00
Volks Railway:	2.80
Total:	32.80

Restaurant Review: Deli Plenty

So its dinner time on a Friday night and you just can't face the kitchen. You reach into the kitchen drawer and pull out your collection of pizza leaflets; Domino's, Pizza Hut, Stone Willy's. What you really want is the real thing but you don't want to have to go out and sit in a restaurant all night when there's something good on the telly.

Try Deli Plenty! Its situated on 135 Station Rd, Hampton, TW12 2AL and as well as their restaurant they do a great take-a-way service. They do all the favourites such as Americana, Three Cheeses, all the ones you find on the big chain pizza delivery services but with a difference. Your pizza will be prepared by a real Italian chief and it will come on the traditional thin crust not on the thick stodgy base that you get from Pizza Hut.

When my friends and I have a pizza take-a-way we no longer order from Domino's preferring to have the real thing delivered straight to our door. We get four large pizzas for 30 pounds, no more expensive than Domino's and with no compromise on the quality.



Well worth a visit. Deli and café during the day; pizzeria and pasta restaurant and take-a-way from 5pm

**Free delivery within Hampton
Closed on Sundays**

Tel 020 8979 0383

Flash Fiction by J. L. Salkilld Futuristic New York

Joey drives you and the others down 8th Street, you have burgers and fries from McDonalds, the delicious smell of burger and warm bun leaks through the paper bag, greasy stains make unusual shapes, like clouds, as the grease soaks through the brown paper. You hold your bag off your lap so the grease won't get onto your new navy denim jeans. You doze, your head resting against the back window; your half shut eyes making the lights blur and streak against the dusky sky. We cruise through Manhattan, into the more derelict area around the base of the Empire state building, the old tourist trap. The car bumps down the ramp into the underground parking lot that we always use. The jerking movement brings you back to reality. Joey parks and we get out, you slam the back door hard, it never shuts properly otherwise, Joey's car is a piece of junk. You begin to follow Joey and the boys but pause for a moment, staring, yet thinking of nothing, your mind blank, back towards the parked car. Several broken billboards and a sign warning 'Unsafe building' have been discarded in a heap a few spaces along from Joey's flivver, this place is a dump you think before making tracking to catch the others up.

★

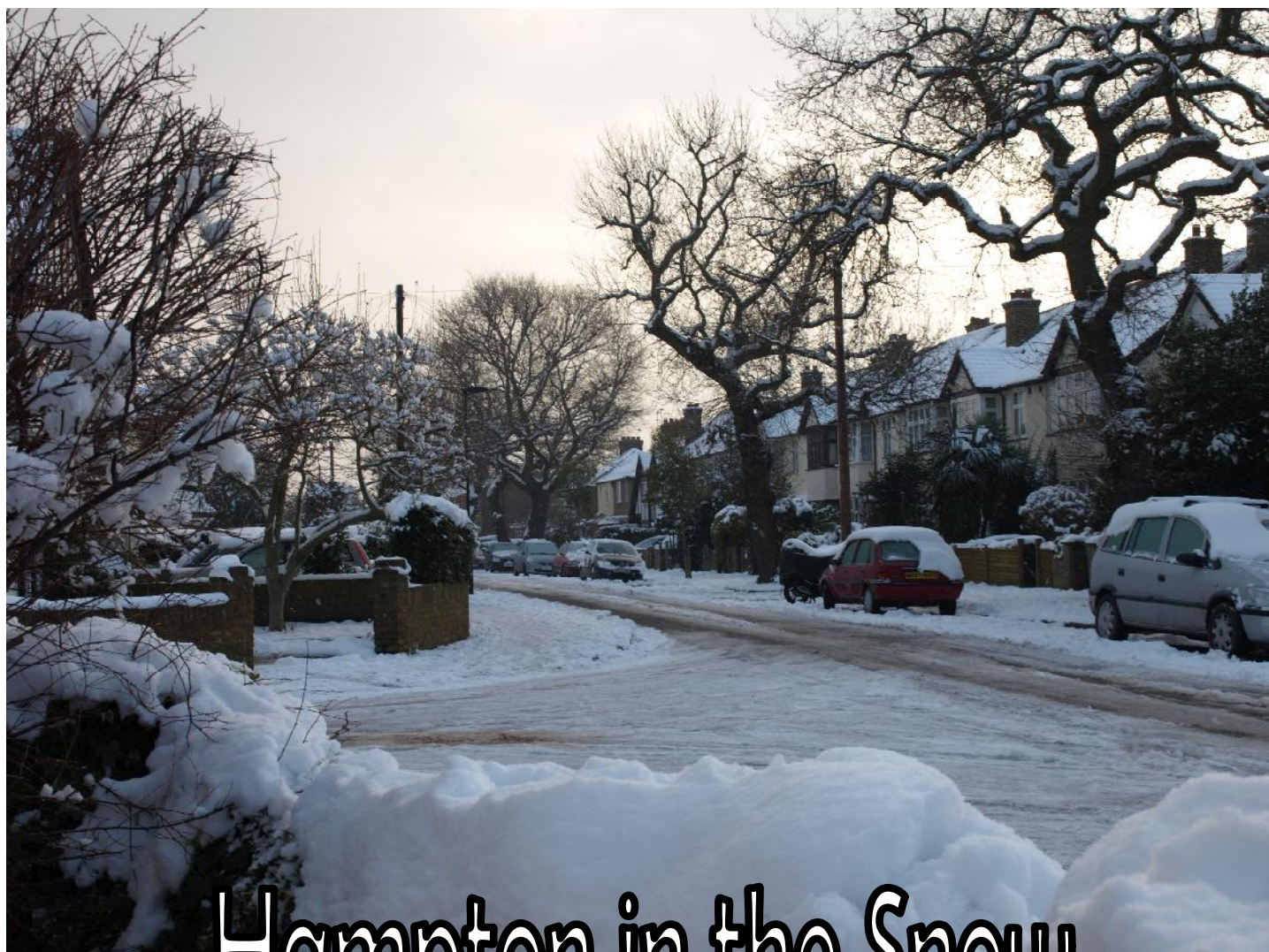
At the top of the disused Empire state building the city is yours. A dozen or more kids your age cling to the metal railings and gaze out over the city, half of them from lower city slums and perhaps only one other kid like you, looking for the excitement from the kind of kids that hold jalopy races in the underground parking lots.

The kid with his new stiff looking jacket stands out from the group, he is a little scared you can see, he won't climb the railings and let his body hang out over the city, to feel the rush of cold air and the anticipation that comes before falling. He stands aside, playing with the flickering flame from his refillable lighter; you can't help but think how way out of place he looks but the feeling passes, you don't care because you know that you don't. You are smart, you always hold onto the maintenance ladder, it is strong and you know you will never fall, the other kids accept you because you do as they do. Caught up in the crowd, the friends you make never seem to be the right ones in your upper city parent's eyes but they are always true ones.

As you gape out over the city that never sleeps you feel young and free at fourteen, you would never swap another life for this one. The lights of the skyscrapers are bright dots and lines of scarlet, yellow and orange and the apartment blocks of the glitterati glow with neon signs and vid screens. Even the hood blazes with luminosity even if the light does come mostly from the graffiti, huge words scrawled on the side of almost every cracked grey building in the concrete jungle, painted with neon paint, stealing its illumination from the rest of the city. You almost feel bad some nights, with your pockets burning with long green while some of these kids come from shot families, brought up by single mothers, their absent fathers being real deadbeat dads.

Tonight however the city belongs to you and them, the crowd of youths at the top of a building that no one thinks about anymore. You are invisible and yet your future is as bright as the lights against the dark cobalt sky. You think of your dreams and foresee that one day your name will shine out on one of those neon signs over the city, over your New York.

By J. L. Salkilld



Hampton in the Snow



Calling all Coke guzzling Students



Between the three of us, that's my two flatmates and I, in this semester alone we have ploughed through a grand total of 50 two-litre bottles of Coke! In a good willed attempt to do more

recycling this year we have been saving all plastic bottles, milk, fizzy drinks, squash etc, crushing them and loading them up into the clear plastic recycling bags for collection and was during this process that I noticed a new advert on the side of the Coke bottles.

Collect points at; <http://www.cokezone.co.uk/>, it boasted, and win prizes. Well you know how these companies are, a gimmick to buy more Coke clearly I thought and dismissed it straight away. However, a week and a bit later, with 15 bottles having a shindig on top of the freezer I decided to have a go at entering the points online and seeing what was on offer.

True, most of the stuff is not worth having. Three points per entry into a competition to win an X-Box, well the chances of you winning one of those are thin, 50 points for a Coke-Zone branded Frisbee or a Coke-Cola shopping bag including free delivery, not so bad. 75 points for 'The Sims 3,' 'Pac-Man,' or 'Final Fantasy' on your mobile phone or an MP3 skin for I-pod Nano, pretty good. 100 points for a 5 pound HMV or Boots gift voucher or a VUE cinema ticket, a mini Coke branded football or string bag, not bad

for free. Penultimately 150 points for a 2GB Coke branded USB stick, a t-shirt, a hat and scarf set or a pair of share headphones.

Finally for an impressive total of 200 points you can get your hands on a 10 pound JJB Sports gift voucher or a Coke rucksack!

Well by the end of the first semester, that's mid September to mid December, I have accumulated 150 points. That's 50 two-litre bottles at 3 points per bottle.

I will be ordering my free set of share headphones courtesy of my Coke guzzling flatmates. I will also be solving the problem of my friend forever complaining about listening with only one ear piece when we listen to my I-Pod together.

Well there you go; <http://www.cokezone.co.uk/>. I don't advise you to rush out and bulk buy Coke but if you're in a shared house at University look around for those empty bottles. It's worth spending 15 minutes typing in the codes for a free pair of headphones that could cost you 10 pounds in the shops.

I managed 150 points with only three people so I'm sure you could do too, and that's without having to buy any more Coke than you usually would drink. Finding it painstaking typing in those codes? Admit it, just how many hours do you spend on you-tube in-between lectures? Spend some time typing in codes instead and then maybe some hours on your I-pod for a change

with your new headphones. You haven't done that for a while, not since you last pair broke and you couldn't afford to buy a new set, you broke student, you.

the Coke side of life
Coca-Cola

True University Tales: Durham University

The American travel writer and outgoing Chancellor of Durham University once said of Durham that there is 'a huge amount of history, a huge amount of beauty and a great deal of friendliness.' I know this because the university library sells carrier bags with these words printed on them. I have yet to buy one, preferring the more traditional Tesco plastic variety. But I can't argue with what the bag says. Durham is certainly historical, beautiful and friendly. It's also many other things, but you're not likely to pick up a bag saying 'Durham: a lot of ex-public school students, still more Oxbridge rejects and a fair bit of alcohol poisoning.'

For the most part however, Durham as a university is much like anywhere else, and any university Freshers' week provides a good opportunity for embarrassment. This coupled with my natural paranoia was a recipe for disaster. It was two days into term and I was in the process of making friends with a girl whom I shall call Vanessa, because that's her name. Vanessa, for perfectly innocent reasons, asked for my room key, which I gave her. From a security point of view, this is not advisable. What Vanessa actually did in my room was leave me an amusing note. Later that day, however, I was looking through my suitcase and came across what I shall describe as feminine hygiene products, for which I have no use. I put two and two together and made five, made my way to Vanessa's room and in a scene straight out of Agatha Christie's *Poirot*, accused my new friend of planting her hygiene products in my suitcase. She denied it, and I realised that I'd made a terrible mistake. Of course Vanessa hadn't left anything in my suitcase, which I'd borrowed from my mother and forgotten to clear out.

Durham boasts a nightclub which was voted by readers of the illustrious FHM magazine the second-worst in Europe. The first placed club has since burned to the ground, meaning Klute now has the recognition it so richly deserves. If you ever get a chance to visit Klute, please do because it really has to be seen to be believed. A typical night is hundreds of boozed up students in fancy dress crammed into what must be the smallest dancefloor in Europe singing along to *Wannabe* by the Spice Girls while the DJ makes fun of their costumes. At Klute, the fun really begins at midnight. Before then, the music is much as you'd expect in any other nightclub. Exactly on midnight, the playlist becomes cheesier than the Dairy Lea distribution centre. S Club 7, ABBA, Queen and B*Witched are all likely to be heard before *That's Amore* comes on at 3 am, whereupon the lights are turned on and guests unceremoniously turned out. This isn't so much a university tale as a solemn testimony. Klute of Durham is the future of nightclubs.

by Sam Trevelyan



Ten Great Gap Year Websites to Explore!

<http://www.campamerica.co.uk/>

Lets get this one out of the way. By far the most heard of summer travel company. Don't jump straight in here though, although they offer an all-inclusive, no strings deal (you only pay what they quote on the website) you may be better applying straight to the camp you wish to work at directly. Great for first timers (although the pay gets better as a returner), as they organise your visa and travel to and from camp for free.

<http://gapyear.com/>

Great as a link site to many other gap year companies (some of which are listed in this article) but its best feature is its link to its online store which sells a huge range of travel and work abroad related books and travel gadgets. It also includes a travel kit section and another page on health while travelling abroad. There is also an extensive forum, two of the top topics being 'Independent Travel & Backpacking' and 'Volunteer, Eco Travel, Languages & Study.'

<http://www.bunac.org/>

This site also offers camp placements like Camp America although it is much better to use Bunac for its 'Work Abroad' packages. Full gap years are available in America, Canada, New Zealand and Australia and like Camp America there are no strings attached on the payments. They also offer volunteer work placements and these extend to countries such as Africa and Asia. It is possible to go solo to work abroad but if you use Bunac then you have access to a 24 hour helpline throughout your stay abroad.

<http://www.gvi.co.uk/>

If your up for a bit of volunteering then this is the site for you! Global Vision International, to give it its full title, runs volunteer projects in over 40 counties worldwide! You can volunteer from a week to two years and they also offer Internships abroad in over 9 counties and over 7 cities! Enter you desired destination, length of project and country and you can view detailed information on each project, including, Highlights, Location, Field Conditions and what differences you will be making to your chosen cause.

Continued

<http://www.i-to-i.com/gap-year/>

This is a great site well worth exploring. The company offers all kinds of volunteering as well as the chance to become TEFL qualified to teach English abroad. They also have a brilliant online travel community 'Campfire' which seems to be one of the best online forum for discussing your plans and finding people to travel with.

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/>

Fairly easy tab based search options on their webpage. They advertise as 'The Leading Global Organiser of Overseas Volunteer Work Placements'. You apply directly online through an online form and you must give a deposit of £195 with your application. The 'Prices' tab gives clear info on exactly what you are getting and seem to include most facilities except flights. They offer a wide range of projects, including Teaching, Care, Conservation & Environment, Medicine & Healthcare, Sports, Community, Business, Law & Human Rights and Journalism.

<http://www.realgap.co.uk/>

Their website looks great but beware they can be rather expensive for some of their packages. However they do offer some packages that you don't find easily on other gap year sites unless you do a custom made trip. Again this site has an easy search engine, choose your desired country and activity from the pull down list and go. They offer trips to over 35 countries including; volunteering work, paid work, teaching English, learning a new language and countless sports & adventure travel opportunities.

<http://www.xtremegapyear.co.uk/>

This website calls itself; 'A New Breed of Adrenaline Travel!' It focuses on extreme sports gap years and exciting adventure, inviting you to try sports and activities that you never would have dreamed of in order to bring you out of your shell or to push your comfort zone. They do anything from 2 weeks to a year and they states no volunteering this gap year is for you only and they say that you 'need real guts to go on most of our programs.' Sounds exciting doesn't it....

<http://www.theleap.co.uk/>

This website has a clear price breakdown on the 'Dates & Prices' tab and offers trips in many parts of Africa, South America, Asia, and Australia. This company focuses on three types of travel. Eco-tourism; working on safari and jungle eco-lodges. Community projects; teaching English and sports to children and building school, and water systems. Finally; Conservation; working with endangered species, preventing poaching and protecting rainforests.

<http://www.gap-year.com/>

This site is a generic gap year planning website. It doesn't offer trips itself but helps you brainstorm and plan your trip, giving helps advice on 'being safe,' 'finance,' 'communication,' and other things such as 'insurance.' It is a virtual version of the gap-year guidebook which is a great book you can buy to help you plan your travels.

**What are
you
waiting for?
Lets get
surfing!**

Adam Trevelyan

My second year at Camp Adirondack

This was my second summer as a counsellor at Adirondack Camp which is in up-state New York. The camp lies on Lake George known as being one of the cleanest lakes in the state. So clean in fact that you can take drinking water directly from it. The lake is surrounded by the Adirondack Mountain Range. Just a 20 minute drive from the camp is Fort Ticonderoga which played an important role during the 18th-century colonial conflicts between Great Britain and France, and again to a lesser extent during the American Revolutionary War. The camp itself was established 105 years ago.

I went through the Camp America program again as a returner having been to the same camp the previous year. I very much enjoyed my first year as a camp counsellor but the second year I enjoyed even more. I knew all the routines this time around and I saw campers and counsellors that I had met last year which was nice. It means when you start the summer not everything is new to you!

This camp is an overnight camp which means the kids stay and sleep there. So if you sent your son/daughter off to the camp for say 4 weeks (this is the typical stay) then you wouldn't see them for 4 weeks! Consequently the counsellors sleep in the cabins with the campers and are responsible for them 24/7. On a side note the cabins are open air.

I did the same activity as I had done the previous summer which was being a tennis instructor. Tennis is a very popular sport there and so I met a lot of the campers through teaching it. The only annoying thing about Tennis is the fact that when it rains you're stuck inside instead!

Even though I was responsible for a set of kids all the time and had tennis to teach my main job was being the camp clock. Like the bell at school which tells you when to go to the next lesson I used a bugle (well actually a trumpet technically) I would play the trumpet throughout the day signalling everything from Wake up (Reveille) to Bed Time (Taps) to Meal Times (Mess Call) to changes in activity. By the way all the bracketed words are the bugle tunes. I played also at a daily ceremony called Retreat where the flag is lowered and the camp attendance is taken. It was all very nerve racking, even in my second year!

Overall it was a great experience going through Camp America. I had no idea where I would be placed but I was very grateful that it was at Adirondack Camp! By the way if you are considering Camp America don't go for the money because it is extremely low. Having said that my pay doubled in my second year from what I got in the first year so that was brilliant!



If you want to learn more about this camp then take a look at:

<http://www.adirondackcamp.com/>



Trek America

Exclusive

Trek America Discount!

For TWIYO Readers!

<http://www.trekamerica.com>



To claim your discount e-mail: **j_salk@talktalk.net** and I will mail you your discount code. You **MUST** enter your code online or quote it if on the phone, at the time of booking.

Awesome treks
Travel with people in your age
group (whatever age)
From Hotels to Camping,
to Budget Lodging and more



trekamerica

original adventures since 1972

SPAG

As many of you will have learned to your cost, a lack of attention to SPAG (spelling and grammar) can cost valuable marks in your college work.

Here is a friendly guide to some of the basics:

COMMAS

Very often commas come in pairs because they surround a phrase that is not absolutely essential to the sentence but adds 'something extra'. For example:

He took a seat beside her and, after a while, turned to look at her.

She could see him out of the corner of her eye and, although she knew she shouldn't, moved closer.

Whatever is between the commas should be able to be lifted out whole and still leave a perfectly sensible sentence remaining.

A common error is to put a comma before an 'and' or 'but', and then another after the next phrase. Bear in mind that *commas don't always have to be there*. Be wary of being too 'comma-happy' – experience has shown that readers dislike lots of commas.

Remember that the sense of the sentence must be maintained and confusion avoided – if you read something aloud you will usually pause naturally where there ought to be a comma.

TOP TIP: The word 'however' is *always* followed by a comma!

'PROPER' SENTENCES

Look at this sentence:

Mary wishes to study English Literature her sister wishes to study Philosophy.

As it stands, this is incorrect. This sentence contains two separate phrases – or clauses:

- 1) Mary wishes to study English Literature
- 2) her sister wishes to study Philosophy.

Your first instinct might be to put in a comma:

Mary wishes to study English Literature, her sister wishes to study Philosophy.

Sorry – also incorrect! But you have lots of right choices:

Mary wishes to study English Literature **and** her sister wishes to study Philosophy.

Mary wishes to study English Literature **but** sister wishes to study Philosophy.

Mary wishes to study English Literature. Her sister wishes to study Philosophy.

Mary wishes to study English Literature – her sister wishes to study Philosophy.

Mary wishes to study English Literature; her sister wishes to study Philosophy.

TOP TIP: A comma is not always the answer!

SPELLING

Beware spellchecker!

The following poem has almost every single word spelled incorrectly, and yet the spellcheck function on your computer will not pick up a single one!

Eye have a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter-perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

TOP TIP: The dictionary is your best friend – whether online or old-fashioned paper!

APOSTROPHES

For some reason these innocent little marks cause mayhem and confusion out of all proportion to their size.

There are only two things to remember: *possession* and *shortening*.

Possession:

One woman's job
Several students' names
The child's toy.
The children's home.
The bird's nest.

Shortening:

It is or it has = it's
Who is or who has = who's
(Note: not whose)
They are = they're
Is not = isn't
Are not = aren't
Will not = won't (note changed spelling)
Would not = wouldn't

TOP TIP: The bird sat on it's nest DOES NOT MAKE SENSE!!
Neither does this: She knew the job would be her's.
In this case possession does-
n't need to be shown by an apostrophe!

With thanks to Carolyn Smalley the
Senior Copy Editor at Harlequin Mills &
Boon Ltd

A Semester in the States

by David Ready

My American Exchange in Wisconsin, Eau-Claire

On August 20th I undertook an American Exchange program organised by the University of Winchester, which granted me the opportunity to spend a semester in the States. The University I chose was situated in the Midwest beneath the Great lakes connecting Canada to the U.S. the state of Wisconsin, a state known for its cheese and lumber industry; the University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire. The modules I chose were mainly English based modules leading to more reading and essays rather than exams, yet I did undertake a North American Indian studies course, a module solely related to the history of the States and the land that was formerly inhabited by Native Americans.

My reasons for choosing this University was mainly to do with its location in the Midwest, the centre of America, perhaps allowing for the best American experience; I also chose this University as they offered the host family program that helped me settle in the U.S and looked after me before international orientation week, they also looked after me on the weekend my flight back was cancelled due to snow.

Whilst in Wisconsin I experienced huge extremes in weather, including flooding in September, causing the Chippewa River to rise right up to the bridge connecting the two campuses; flooding that became critical as e-mails were sent out to students warning them of the situation. Owen Park itself was flooded, with the tennis courts knee deep in water, flooding even going as far as the roads of which many were closed off. Other extremes included a snow storm in mid-December causing all students and staff to remain inside and

tough it out in halls, outside the snow swirled and battered the windows of cars which were stuck in the snow, delaying student trips home. Many of us on lower campus braved the conditions and trekked to upper campus to get food. The next day, the whole of Eau-Claire was covered in a winter-wonderland of snow 3 feet deep. It was also difficult coming home due to this weather on the 20th December.

Eau-Claire being situated in the Midwest of Wisconsin allowed me access to other major cities around the district. In mid November I took a road trip with friends to Milwaukee further East in Wisconsin the largest populated city in Wisconsin, occupying the Miller Brewery and stadium home to the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team. We visited the renowned art museum, modern in structure and located right by the bay connecting Wisconsin to Michigan, we also went through the historic 'third ward', somewhat detached from the city centre itself.

If Milwaukee was 3 hours away, a 6 hour drive to Chicago was the place to go during thanksgiving weekend. Thanksgiving meal in the hard rock cafe was tasty with Turkey for main and pumpkin pie for desert; the restaurant itself was busy with drums perched on top of the bar in a very American style. Willis tower stretched high in the sky as the tallest building in America, closely followed by Hancock which I visited in the evening looking out across all the bright lights of Chicago. You could see different states from the top of both towers. Also the 'silver bean' a giant art sculpture in Millennium Park Chicago reflected life around the city.

With the all-access meal plan granting me unlimited access to the cafeteria, I was encouraged to eat more, thinking surely I must have gained weight due to the amount of Oreos and lucky charms I ate. If you come to Eau-Claire at the beginning of fall or in the summer, as a student it is important to go Cliff jumping off Mt Simon and tubing down the Chippewa on floats.

The atmosphere at the Collegiate football games is also amazing, with the marching band making much of the noise around the stadium, atmosphere was also amazing at ice-hockey games and other sporting events, particularly during 'homecoming', an early September event that celebrated the return of Graduating students.

All these things including pumpkin carving at Halloween and eating turkey at thanksgiving contributed to a great experience in Eau-Claire, something that I will want to revisit in the future. I also strongly recommend that you get to know the people of Wisconsin, who are friendly and will happily welcome you into their world, plus Americans aren't all that fat in this area, despite the number of fast food restaurants and fizzy drinks at hand on your average American road trip.

Reporting on America.

David Ready



The Life and Times of James Wardle

‘Politics is made up of two words. Poli the Greek word for many, and tics, which are bloodsucking insects’ – Gore Vidal

Before I go rambling on about random things, I shall begin with a joke. Once upon a time there was a knight in shining armour and he was in love with a princess. After a long thought he decided to ask the king for the princess's hand in marriage. So he mounted his noble steed; Krincord and headed for the castle. Upon arrival he led Krincord to the stable, and gave him some nice hay. Krincord nodded and muttered something the knight didn't catch. The knight then walked purposefully into the castle, confronted the king and asked if he could marry the princess. The king thought about this for a while then got the idea that he could use the situation for his own good. He said to the knight; 'We will see, but before I consider you must first slay the three evil dragons plaguing my kingdom!' The knight had heard of these dragons, and was at first unsure. But he then remembered his love for the princess and announced 'HAH! THOSE DRAGONS SHALL BE NO MORE!!' He ran out of the castle, mounted Krincord and rode off towards the far off mountains where the dragon's lived.

It was a long hard journey across miles of desert and when the knight was close to death, he saw in the distance a sign for Little Chef and thought he was saved! But as they got closer he realised it was still being built, and in fact said; 'Little Chef, coming soon!' So they carried on with heavy hearts. Two days after that (during which point they found a wizard who gave them some chicken and coca cola) they reached the edge of a massive forest. The knight dismounted and headed towards the forest; he turned to Krincord and told him to stay there, for it was too dangerous. Krincord said, in a British cockney accent 'a'right gov' he then pulled out a newspaper, strangely from the day, and started to read.

For the next three days the knight hacked his way through the undergrowth, several times he was attacked by killer plants, giant wasps, and at one time a very large tiger which the knight only just managed to defeat. After this encounter the knight stumbled into a clearing, in the middle of which was a large mound of bananas. On top of which sat a large albino gorilla, very slowly chewing on a banana. The knight stood in awe of the awesome sight, before taking a hold of himself and approaching the gorilla slowly. 'Excuse oh mighty lord of the jungle! But do you know the way to the mountains where I can find the three evil dragons?' The gorilla slowly turned to look at the knight, and while still eating the banana said 'over that way mate' and pointed. The knight said his thanks and headed toward the mountains. The next day he arrived at the base of the smallest of the three mountains. It was very steep, but luckily the knight had his kit of knightyness! This included a lot of rope and mountain climbing gear. So he began his long ascent. Two days later he reached the top, and the first of the dragon's caves! He waited a moment to catch his breath before entering. The cave was dark, and he could see a large shadow moving within, when without warning the dragon attacked! It came leaping out doing back flips and throwing stars made of dragon scales, for you see the first dragon was... a ninja dragon! But ninjas are terrible, so the knight promptly severed its head, and put it in his bag of knightyness which could magically hold a lot of items. He then made his way up the larger mountain next to the one he was on. At reaching the top, he again waited to catch his breath and entered the cave. This time when the dragon attacked it fired a cannon before charging with a large sword, this dragon was a pirate! This battle was a lot harder, as pirates are awesome, but the knight proved the victor! And again he took the dragon's head before setting off up the third and largest mountain.

Reaching the top, he didn't have time to catch his breath as the dragon was already flying and attacking him. This was to be the knight's hardest fight ever! For this dragon was a mix of pirate, ninja, and wizard! After a week long battle, the knight was about to fall, but as the dragon went for the death blow, the knight struck the dragon's head off! He had won! The knight then made the long trip home, during the forest he was attacked by the undead tiger he had previously killed. In the clearing of the albino gorilla was a pile of peeled bananas, with a note that read 'someone tagged me, I'm off to get him,' the knight found Krincord, now reading an issue of TWIYO, climbed on and rode home, passing the now fully built Little Chef. Upon reaching the city, the knight rode straight to the king, showed him the now decomposing heads of the dragon's and said; 'now may I marry the princess!' The king thought about this before turning to the knight and saying 'no'.

I shall let that sink in for a moment.

Well, I'm sure someone out there enjoyed that joke. Rest assured the rest of this will not be like that. I feel I should mention; I started to write this while drunk and listening to awful music. I'm now sober so I'm hoping the rest will be better. One thing I have never understood is why people always want a 'White Christmas'. Well we have one, do you now see why I've been saying it's a bad thing! The trains and buses barely work and you can't really walk anywhere. Chavs are throwing snowballs at everyone, and you really have to resist the urge to go hit them. And there are two types of people driving, the people who go at 5mph, I mean sure be safe, but that's just stupid, and the people who go at 50mph... this is just... you're going to die, I hope you know that. A friend of mine was on his way to Kingston, with me in fact, when an Audi, clearly speeding, went across a cross section, didn't even attempt to slow down and look and hit the back of a lorry which then spun around, smashing several cars and ending up on the pavement. It could of been so much worse, and I feel bad saying it (well, I don't) but I'm glad the idiot driving the Audi went to hospital with whiplash. I'd be much happier this time of year going off to Latvia with my girlfriend. She's from Riga, the capital of Latvia so we go there from time to time. We went there this summer, it was a great time. We spent the first few days at her summer house, going to the beach, doing a little more than swimming. I also got my nerd going and spent a whole day in a museum about soviet trains. Those things are so amazing! They're made of solid iron and are the size of a large building, but still manage to go at great speeds! I personally love all the old soviet designs. It was also in Riga that I got very VERY drunk. I shan't say what happened, but the next day I was sick on a bus in the middle of Riga, very embarrassing. All I needed to do was go and urinate on the Latvian statue of liberty to complete the British man in Latvia look.

There is one good thing about the snow though, and that is I haven't had to do much work. I work in a mail sorting warehouse near Heathrow, and thanks to the snow no lorries have been able to come in, except for one, which then got stuck outside. I personally rather enjoy my job, I'm lifting heavy things all day, the people are very friendly and the tea is great. And a few of them play world of Warcraft, which, I will be honest with you, faithful reader, I play occasionally. But I'm sure there will be more on that another time. Now before I sign this out I shall leave you with this Japanese haiku:

One who owns
a minigun
Fears not

By James Y. Wardle



Don't Miss: the next issue of TWIYO

And don't forget those submissions!

Feedback, comments and suggestions of any kind are also welcome via e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you all.

Please E-mail all submissions to:
j_salk@talktalk.net

Also don't forget to check out our website for news on upcoming issues and coming soon; a travel photography gallery.

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