

World mission trip awaits O'Callaghan

by Willem Kupets

While most seniors anxiously wait to hear back from colleges, Taylor O'Callaghan has something else on his mind. He will be spending nine months sleeping on the streets and delivering aid to different countries in Asia, Africa, and Central America.

For the program World Race: Gap Year, O'Callaghan will spend three three-month stints in Guatemala, Malaysia, and Botswana in order to help those in need.

O'Callaghan explained "The majority of my work will be spent serving the materially poor, sick, enslaved, and those who are much less fortunate than us."

He and the rest of his group will tend to the needs of the community as they travel throughout the country. "I will be building houses and working in orphanages, helping people who are seriously ill with diseases like HIV or AIDS, planting churches."

O'Callaghan added, "I will basically be doing what is in need



O'Callaghan has stops planned in Guatemala, Malaysia, and Botswana | O'Callaghan

of help at the time I am there."

Because he will be relocating so often, sleeping arrangements become more complicated and will often be improvised. He and the other members will keep tents on-hand, but O'Callaghan says he will gladly take arrangement offers from churches

and houses of other missionaries.

WorldRace has a strong Christian background, and O'Callaghan will be spreading the message of Christianity during his mission trip.

"A lot of the time we will be partnering with churches, missionaries or other Christian

organizations. Instead of trying to force religion down people's throat, we will just be trying to demonstrate our faith and the love that we've been given by showing love towards others."

O'Callaghan knows that religion can come across as preachy and turn people off. He is interested in helping more than preaching.

"I will basically be doing what is in need of help at the time that I am there."

- Taylor O'Callaghan

"Something that I've seen to be very impactful in a negative way is preaching at people. Nobody wants to have someone telling them they are wrong, rather, we will be showing love and just conversing no matter what they may believe."

As an avid member of his church's youth group and leader of a

bible study group, O'Callaghan has a strong involvement with helping those in need.

"I have worked at a Christian camp in Wisconsin. There are 3 weeks of the camp devoted to those of the materially poor or disabled. I have also done community service, whether it be serving at a soup kitchen or just going out and having intentional conversations with people who live on the streets of Chicago."

Although O'Callaghan has already been accepted into college and will delay matriculation for a year, a reason for his gap year stems from his desire to do something more than traditional education usually offers.

"I felt that I was being called to do something more in this world," he said, "I realized that I don't have to put so much pressure on myself to get into the perfect school right now. I can take my time to see the world and get life experience before going, all while spreading love."

Taylor O'Callaghan's fundraising page is at <http://Taylorocallaghan.theworldrace.org>.

My unfulfilling "Snap Story"

by Carly Travis

I did it.

What is "it" you ask? I caved and made a Snapchat. I could possibly have been the last one on earth to do so.

I explicitly recall sitting in the lunchroom freshman year when my friend leaned over with her iPad and took a selfie with me.

This was nothing new, but within seconds her boyfriend sent one back and they continued this foreign mode of communication through the course of the lunch period. They were "snapping": no words, just their faces adorned with duck lips. I didn't get it; what was the point?

I sat down the other night and made one out of curiosity and also for journalistic purposes. It was a social experiment if you will.

At first, I was doing it all wrong. I understood the cognitive functions of the app, but I was completely over thinking everything that I was, uh, "snapping".

I would take a selfie and immediately delete it and try again. Write an amusing caption, then decide to change the wording. I drew a funny picture on top of my face, but then decided the pen color wasn't right.

I came down here to enjoy the beautiful weather, not blast it all over the web. I wasn't enjoying the moment, I gravitated towards my phone instead.

Snapchat allows for a timer on all of your pictures, so, essentially, there's no need to be worried about the fact that the lighting isn't right or your triple chin isn't on display. By taking out the judging element that social media builds in, Snapchat diverges from all other mediums.

On Instagram, a follower can "like" your post by double tapping on the photo. This way, you receive an

immediate reaction and feel a sense of "hey, other people agree with me or find me funny or creative." It's totally satisfying. The same can be done on Twitter and Facebook.

Does this feature make it a popularity contest? Maybe. Is there a correlation between more "likes" or "retweets" one accumulates, the more friends he or she has? This may not be true in all cases, but by having a responsive element where people can give you feedback on your post, there is a need to be more critical over yourself and others.

I noticed this element is taken out of Snapchat and I realized I didn't particularly like that. I love receiving feedback on my posts: it creates this virtual shared interest with another person, whether I know them or not.

Snapchat feels so pointless to me because I have no way of really responding to what I'm seeing.

It occurred to me that Snapchat might be targeted towards a specific type of person. Just like how Pinterest is for the Martha Stewart, DIY type and Facebook is the sorority sisters domain, Snapchat feels random and sporadic and a little less creative.

The synopsis is that I still don't entirely see the purpose. I've been active on and and off and occasionally dabbled in creating a "Snap Story." Every time I do use it, though, I feel like social media is acting against me.

The constant argument around the web is that social media distracts from live activities, causing you to live through a screen rather than in the moment. For example, I was enjoying a relaxing evening at the beach the other day when I pulled out my phone to "Snap" it.

Shame ran through me. I came down here to enjoy the beautiful weather, not blast it all over the web. I wasn't enjoying the moment, I gravitated towards my phone instead.

So maybe the app isn't for me, but I found the interactions with it interesting and exciting nonetheless.

by Charlie Clarke

While the modern day recognition of St. Patrick's Day revolves around drinking, the roots of this "holiday" have nothing at all to do with alcohol. That leads into some interesting facts about the celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

- 1. March 17th, the day of St. Patrick's Day, began as a feast celebration on the date of St. Patrick's death.** St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. The day was first celebrated with a mass service and a meal.
- 2. St. Patrick wasn't even Irish.** He was actually born in Britain and raised in through an aristocratic Christian family. According to folklore, he was kidnapped at 16 and taken to Ireland, later escaping and going back to Britain when he heard a voice in his dreams telling him to go to Ireland. He ended up spending the rest of his life converting the Irish to Christianity.
- 3. Until 1970, pubs in Ireland were closed on March 17th.** This holiday was a relatively tame holiday until it was brought to America. Then America turned it into the big party we know of it as today. This can be traced to the one "day off" of Lent in the Christian faith.
- 4. New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade is the largest parade in the U.S.** While most Chicagoans take pride in their downtown parade, it is not the largest. It is though, the one parade where a local body of water is dyed "perfectly" green.
- 5. New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade is also the oldest civilian parade in the world.** Dating back to the 1700's, the parade has its early roots with the Irish immigrants. Now, anyone can go if they wear green!
- 6. Sales of Irish Whiskey go up**

St. Patrick's day facts that will whiskey you away



Pictured above: the famous (green) Chicago River dyed for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Below: thousands of people wait to see the parade | AP Images

- 400% on St. Patty's Day.** Yes, the alcohol consumption is huge, and 400% proves it. You can see packed bars across many major American cities on St. Patrick's Day weekend.
- 7. The biggest bar tab on St. Patrick's day was \$245 Million.** This is not a joke. Whether or not this decision was influenced by alcohol, it is an astounding number, and simply shows the amount of alcohol consumed on St. Patty's day.
- 8. 1% of the world's beer is consumed on St. Patty's Day.** I think you get the point.
- 9. 83% of American adults wore green this St. Patrick's Day.** Shoulder to shoulder those adults would stretch from California to New York there and back. Twice.

- 10. An estimated 13 Million pints of Guinness are consumed around the world on St. Patrick's Day.** That's enough beer to fill 60% of the Empire State Building.
- 11. The first St. Patrick's Day celebration was in Boston in 1737.** Boston is known for their basketball team the Celtics and a lot of Irish themes are central in Boston culture. It isn't really surprising to see that Boston was the city to hold the first St. Patrick's Day celebration
- 12. The average person will spend about \$36.52 on St. Patrick's Day.** If everyone spent that on St. Patrick's Day, the United States should be raking in about \$4.6 billion this year. A lot of green for a green holiday.

