

touring america



Two local Buffalonians and UB graduates plan to travel the United States in 31 days via Jet Blue's promotional deal "All-You-Can-Jet." The promotion was an unlimited amount of plane tickets for \$599 between Sept. 8 and Oct. 8. Clark Dever and Joe DiNardo saw this deal as an opportunity of a lifetime and plan to stay on the ground no longer than 12 hours at a time. They plan to document the entire trip through social networks like Facebook and Twitter. They took the time to give us a preview of their trip here at *Visions*.

By Anna Oakes

Visions: Where did this idea come from?

Clark Dever: I was telling Joe about a trip I was taking to Colorado for my photography business and he asked me if I had used the "All You Can Jet" pass for the flight. I hadn't heard of it at that point, but as soon as he explained it we both knew we had to create this project and make it as extraordinary as possible.

Joe DiNardo: After a few cocktails we had the idea for Twelve Hours in a City.

V: Have you set up flight itineraries yet?

C: We have ourselves booked through the first 12 days of the promotion and we've been working on the remainder of our itinerary. We're hoping to schedule it to include guest appearances and interesting events across the country. We really want to give our audience an incredible show and a reason to be excited for the next episode.

V: Were you nervous about leaving your jobs?

C: As a UB student the most important thing that I learned was that experience is what gets you ahead of your classmates. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. This project has been incredible and it hasn't even really started. We've been interviewed by national media outlets, had sponsorship offers from well-known national brands and most importantly, this is going to be probably one of the most epic trips to ever occur. It's important to take educated risks in your life to follow your passion. I am using the opportunity to photograph people and places all over the United States. Our rough (read: back of the napkin after a few drinks) estimates indicate that the trip is costing about 10% of what it would at retail prices.



photo courtesy of luke copping

V: What cities do you plan to visit that you're most excited about?

C: We currently have 27 cities on our itinerary. I'm excited about New York City, Los Angeles, Phoenix and of course, Las Vegas (you can't have twelvehourSINaCITY.com without Vegas)! I also can't wait to go to all the little cities that I wouldn't have a chance to visit without this project.

J: I've always loved the west coast so I'm really looking forward to L.A., San Francisco and Seattle.

V: Are there any specific attractions that you're definitely hitting up?

J: We'll go pretty much anywhere our fans tell us to go in their cities. If you have recommendations go to our Wiki (<http://bit.ly/12hrWiki>) and edit the pages for each city.

V: Facebook or Twitter?

J: Both. Each network has its advantages. Facebook is great for sharing pictures and organizing events. Twitter is awesome for spreading links and quick bits of information.

V: What happened to MySpace?

C: It died the second that Rupert Murdoch looked in its general direction.

J: Who knows? Who cares?

V: Are you guys setting a limit on the amount of money you spend during the trip?

C: Sky is the limit... or the bottom of my bank account. Whatever comes first.

J: We should, but we aren't.

V: What kind of camera do you use?

C: Canon 5d Mark II and whatever lenses I can get my hands on. Pocket Wizards are a must. Yes, they're called pocket wizards... I don't even have to make a joke.

J: My mind. It shoots in HD during the day and really blurry during the night.

V: So no girlfriends, pets or children that you're leaving behind?

C: What happens at 30,000 feet stays at 30,000 feet. Honestly, I'll miss my family but they're very supportive and have been doing a tremendous amount of work on the project. I'm lucky to have a great support network.

J: Nope. Let me elaborate that more for the women of UB - I'm single.

V: Any stories from UB?

C: I was a TA for two different courses. I had a resident that was featured in a campus invasion pornography shoot. I organized 65 people and raised \$14,000 in under a month to do relief work after Hurricane Katrina. I walked in on another porn shoot featuring two dudes and one chick (Eiffel Tower style) when I was an RA. I helped found the current chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) at UB. College was a practical lesson in learning how to balance the life long pursuit of education, debauchery, philanthropy, community service and most importantly LOLz.

If you want to keep track of Clark and Joe during their travels they have a Facebook page set up at <http://facebook.com/12hrs> and they each have their own Twitters, <http://twitter.com/clarkdever> for Clark and <http://twitter.com/joedinardo> for Joe. **V**