



*Night shot looking over New York City from the top of the Empire State Building.*

On a snowy, March early morning, a school bus and van with 45 people left for the city of New York. The tour, which is held annually by the Education faculty, originated seven years ago with a group of geographers led by Gary Whiteford and Gerry Clarke, who is formerly from New York. The geography people were interested in seeing the lifestyles and customs as well as getting a perspective on the city's location. Since that time the tour has expanded to allow other Education students (such as those majoring in Social Studies and History) as well as other students to attend.

This year the travellers consisted of approximately 15 geographers, 10 social studies and history students, 10 other students in education, and 10 guests from other faculties. One girl even brought her mother and aunt along on the trip! Gerry Clarke who organized and led the trip (since Whiteford is on sabbatical this year), says that the trip is "the best kind of experience in urban geography." The experience is important for geographers as well as prospective teachers who can see the importance of field trips in the learning experience: it is a major city - they learn to manage in massive surroundings and not be overwhelmed by it. Although the trip consisted of only four days in the "Big Apple" all participants saw a variety of sights. But to return to how we travelled to New York...As the bus approached Bangor, Maine the group was more than happy to see a Greyhound bus waiting for them. With Les Vantasel as the driver, all were confident in his ability to deliver them to New York.

After a short breakfast stop at MacDonald's we continued travelling until we reached L.L. Bean's, 24-hour sporting and variety shop. From there we went to Massachusetts to stop at a place called Old Sturbridge Village, which is similar to our own King's Landing. "The contrast," says Clarke, "between a rural place and an urban place" of which we were to arrive in four hours -- "makes the trip a tremendous eye-opener."

## 'New York, NEW YORK'



*A view of Lower Manhattan from a tour boat.*

We finally arrived in New York with all its tall concrete buildings, its variety of people, and its many lights, at about 8 p.m. at the Hotel Empire across the Lincoln Centre and from that moment on we used every second possible to see what New York could offer the tourist. Gerry had scheduled three tours, which took place in the early morning of each day. The first walking excursion was down 5th avenue, along 42nd street, through the Garment District, and arriving at Time Square. This lasted about 3 and 1/2 hours of walking, photograph-taking, and standing in utter amazement. At noon the group separated into smaller cliques and we left to do what we wanted. The second tour (on the following day) consisted of a subway excursion to go to the United Nations Building via Grand Central Station. We entered the UN Building and a tour guide told us about the many conference rooms and national meetings which periodically take place there. We then went by subway to lower Manhattan and to the Staten Island Ferry, where most of the group went to see the Statue of Liberty.

Again the group separated to do as they pleased for the rest of the day. On the final day in New York, the group left by our Greyhound bus for Lower Manhattan. Here we walked through Chinatown, Bowery and Orchard Street.

Feature & Photos by

Kim Matthews  
and  
Rick Gould



*Walking beside Central Park.*