

Week 4: “If Not Us, Who? If Not Now, When?” John F. Kennedy



This week was relatively calm and normal in the office. A memorable duty was to fetch ice cream from the International Dairy Food Association Ice Cream Party for the office. It was scorching hot, humid, and my clothes were sticking to my skin. Since I was accompanying another intern from the office, I suggested we carry a large amount of ice cream bowls to the office. Unfortunately, by the time we arrived at the office, we brought soup instead of ice cream.



Some of the things I did outside the Hill consisted of going to the Eastern Market and pacing around the various tents that sold flowers, paintings, clothing, furniture and other knick-knacks, vegetables, fruits, cheese, meat, and accessories. It turned out, however, that I did not have Eastern Market money. The paintings were beautiful, but I have no idea how I would take a painting back home with me. I was captivated by the paintings of the U.S. Capitol, and every artist interpretation is unique and amazing. I did, however, [impulsively] buy the second book in the Harry Potter series as I am reading them together with my younger sister.



On Friday’s CHCI session, we traveled to the Mexican Cultural Institute in Columbia Heights. There, we had the opportunity to listen to the Mexican Embassy talk about their work and tour the building. It contained murals painted by Roberto Cueva del Río, a disciple of Diego Rivera, that showcased the important events from different eras. There were also sculpture exhibitions of artists such as José Sacal and topographies by Bosco Sodi.

Later that day, Rosa, Metzín, Eduardo, Wendy, and I went off to the National Portrait Gallery. I was able to see renaissance-like paintings and a close up painting of the Rotunda, which is located on the dome of the Capitol. We went to eat afterwards at Chinatown Express. To end the day, we traveled to Union Station where we roamed through the restaurants, stores, and checked out the Amtrak. We gazed over the Capitol from the Columbus Fountain while talking about random things before we headed home. On Saturday, we headed over to a BBQ get-together, on invitation of Rosa’s director. We had a great time there and ate great food.



Sunday came along, and we headed out to the Arlington Cemetery. The vast amount of tombstones puts into perspective the sacrifice that must be given in order for us to enjoy freedom. We stopped by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to see the change-of-guard ritual. I was left without words to think that the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier does not have everlasting peace, as different servicemen and



servicewomen are yet to be found. We were also able to visit President John F. Kennedy and his family's gravesite. Their grave made this experience different from that of the Lincoln, Jefferson, and even Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. It was more personal, and there was a stronger connection. John F. Kennedy, who was such an important figure in United States' history, rests underneath the ground along with his family. It makes me believe that I, too, can make an impact in this world just as he did.

Marlene's Notes:

- Credit Union in the Longworth House Office Building exchanges quarters for bills
- When you thought you have seen everything in a museum, you probably have not seen everything
- If you are going to visit the Arlington Cemetery, take an umbrella and water with you
- Get an Extracare card from CVS from the beginning of the internship; it will help to get the sale price [Thanks Julia ;)]
- www.hillhappenings.com: tracks the Hill's briefings, luncheons, receptions, and more
- Keep an eye on your balance on the Metro card