

Week 5: The Exorcist, Potomac River, Congressional Baseball, and Me



After living in Washington, D.C. for a whole month, I can basically call myself a Washingtonian. I jaywalk the streets, memorized the main stops at the metro, walk through the Capitol on official business, slide my debit card knowing everything is expensive, stare in agony at my metro card's balance as the number decreases by a large margin after adding money, etc. Interning in D.C. is definitely different from what I imagined. I have heard through various staffers that one cannot study political science or any government related job and be prepared to work on the Hill. In fact, no matter what one

studied, anyone can work on the Hill because it is a learning experience. As I

have said before, I am a science major, completely different from politics. An intern that is coachable and open to learn will be set to work on the Hill.



Thus far, the Committee of Natural Resources had a Congressional Convening on Environmental Justice. I helped usher people to their seats and set up food and refreshments for an after-convening celebration for the staff members. In the office, I was able to sort emails, usher constituents to the Capitol tour, answer constituent phone calls, sort through physical mail, turn in documents to the cloakroom, and even take a phone call in Spanish (I have been preparing for this moment since I stepped into the office).

On Wednesday, I went to the Congressional Baseball Game and sat with Julia and Metzin. I had a blast watching the game; it was definitely worth it to see Republicans and Democrats playing with their hearts. As I am a moderate, I cheered for both the Reps and Dems with red and blue towels that were given for free by the entrance of the baseball stadium. On Thursday, I went with my supervisor, a staff member, and two interns to watch The Little Mermaid at Canal Park. I got to get to know my co-workers more and enjoyed talking with them after work about non-office related topics.



I was invited to go kayaking with two of my co-workers and some other friends. Metzin and Eduardo also went to kayak at the Key Bridge Boathouse. I had a great time! I realized, once again, that I need not want, but *need* to go kayaking a few more times before I leave. I'm starting to think that I belong in the ocean!

Afterwards, Metzin, Eduardo, and I headed to see the *Exorcist Steps* which made an appearance in the movie *The Exorcist*. The stairs, needless to say, look eerie. I would like to see those stairs at night, when the lights have the yellow-orange tint. I might be crazy, but the only thing frightening about the steps are the amount of stairs I needed to walk up (75 steps

total. Mind you, I had beat Metzin and Eduardo on a kayaking race with my co-intern). The steps are a nice, hidden gem in Georgetown.

...I do also now sleep with the lights on...you know, just to make sure...



I was able to do community service hours at So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E) with Julia, Rosa, and Eduardo from 6:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. I enjoyed volunteering there, and the staff was great to work with. There were moments that the pace was fast, and plates



were being served at a fast pace, and others were slow, to the point that I started to fall asleep.

I look forward to the **4th of July** and **recess** next week...perhaps a bit too much. :)



Marlene's Notes:

- For my lactose intolerant people, you can enjoy milkshakes (or ice cream) that are made from lactose free cookie dough ice cream and almond milk at Ben & Jerry's in Georgetown.
- Journals do not tend to write themselves apparently.
- There are fireflies that gather around the garden in the Old Stone House in Georgetown. Visit when you are hanging around there. The fireflies look like small specks of flames. I highly recommend.
- **ARRIVE EARLY TO THE CONGRESSIONAL GAME**, THE SPONSORS SUCH AS NASA, NETFLIX, AFLAC, C-SPAN, ETC. GIVE OUT FREE THINGS SUCH AS HATS, TOWELS, GAME GEAR, SHIRTS, ECO-FRIENDLY STRAWS, BAGS, ETC. IT CAN GET REALLY CROWDED, SO ARRIVE EARLY :)
- The metro at 9 and 10 at night still tends to be busy; there are people traveling from the airport all the time. However, the trains do not run as often at night, especially on the weekend. Although it is relatively safe and there are enough people in the metro, keep an eye out and always be on alert.
- If you get cold easily, I recommend bringing a blanket and decently warm p.j.'s.
- You might think people drink a lot due to the amount of happy hours in D.C...
 - ...You might not be wrong