

9/11 Memorial, Occupy Wall Street, Veterans Day**11/11/11**

My colleague, Mark Daly, and I were in New York over the weekend for meetings. We went down to visit the 9/11 Memorial which is built on the site of the World Trade Center Towers. Massive fountains pour down into the foundation holes of the north and south towers. The memorial is very moving. In a sad tribute to the terrorist murders of 9/11 we had to show our pass five separate times and go through a TSA style search to enter the hallowed site.

Now to Zuccotti Park, the epicenter of Occupy Wall Street. We were amazed to find out that this is a small time operation. The park is about half of a city block. It is crowded with tents, but less people. Far less than a good scout camp. The reality is that there are about five blocks worth of NYC eccentrics and street people concentrated into the small park.

I let some of the protesters know how disappointed I was with the insignificance of their protest relative to the media fuss. It is absolutely amazing. While the TV/media portrays one hundred the reality is closer to two. This is why all the shots are up close; if they panned out you would see the reality that this isn't much of a story. I had the good fortune to visit Haight-Ashbury during the Summer of Love. (I was in the back seat of my parents Ford Galaxy.) If you look at pictures of those times, you will see that they are shot from above with a wide angle lens. If you want to see people in the streets of New York City go to Chinatown or Fifth Avenue.

My favorite was the capitalist economy fellow. Pressing him on his alternative to capitalism, he agreed that socialism was not the answer. With a glazed look he insisted that "you just don't know man". Finally he offered up "an agrarian zero growth society" as his solution for the future, a state of affairs under which he and most of his fellows would surely die.

The larger, and less told, story is the new World Trade Center. Five buildings totaling ten million square feet are going up near the 9/11 Memorial. They are anchored by a ninety story 2.6 million square foot building that has now placed an affirmative exclamation point back onto the shores of lower Manhattan. It is massive and glorious and stands as a testament that we will not be defeated as the proudest nation in the world. Our heartfelt thank you to all who have served.

That is the real story!



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