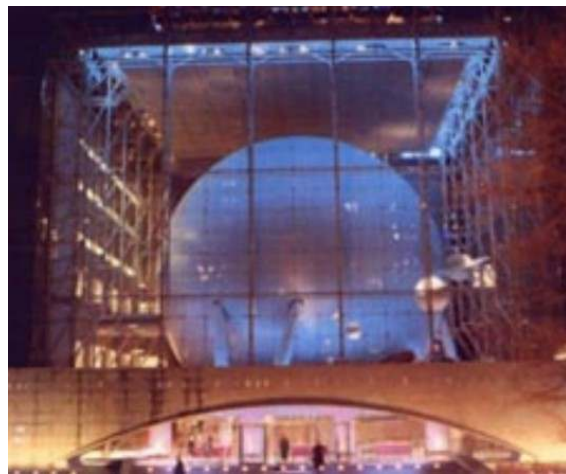


Tuesday, August 01, 2006

Today we went to uptown Manhattan on our bus tour. This part of the tour took us along Museum Mile, which was a stretch of road running along Central Park where the Metropolitan Museum, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Museum of Natural History are located.

Figure 1: Museum of Natural History



We went inside the Museum of Natural History today and spent a couple of hours there. They had the most impressive collection of dinosaur fossils we have ever seen in a museum. Lunch was at the museum cafe.

After the museum, we went to St. Patrick's Cathedral. Though not the largest church in the world, it is one of the oldest and grandest. Built to look like an old European gothic cathedral, it is quite beautiful and cavernous. Unfortunately, the architects forgot to design the building for proper ventilation. Having been inside European cathedrals, Newton has noticed that holes were put into the walls and ceilings to maximize airflow, especially during the hot summer months. Not so here, St. Patrick's Cathedral was essentially airtight when the doors were closed. In essence, the building heated up and pockets of hot air would accumulate near the ceiling during the summer.

Figure 2: St. Patrick's Cathedral



During the night, we went to the Empire State Building. This is now the tallest building in NYC, and the base of it is filled with restaurants and shops. We had dinner at the Heartland Restaurant, which served American food. Afterwards, we went up to the 86th floor of the Empire State Building from which we could go out onto a large patio and see the whole city. Unfortunately, it was extremely crowded. There were probably 1000+ people standing shoulder to shoulder on this patio

trying to get a good spot along the edge to see the city. It was also quite smoggy and the view was horrible.

Figure 3: Empire State Building

Figure 4: Macy's



Afterwards, we walked around Macy's. This is the premier shopping experience in NYC. Coming in at 8 stories tall, it specializes in clothes, and more clothes, with sections for wigs, rugs, jewelry, shoes and other things women can spend money on. The only thing memorable from this place was the escalators. One lady got her shoe stuck in an escalator, thereby jamming the escalator. The shoe that got stuck was quite expensive; it had diamond-studs on it, and we believed she had just bought it from Macy's!

