

"First they ignore you,
then they laugh at you,
then they fight you,
then you win."
Mahatma Gandhi



OCCUPY LOS ANGELES NEWS

OCCUPY LA MEDIA NEWS

SOCIETAL WOES

#OCCUPY NEWS

#OccupyLA

11.11.11 Blue meets Red
#OccupyLA March, Rally and
Dance through the Streets of LA
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxNjI-6ulNo~pj>

#OccupyPortland

Deadline to leave: "the camp has become dangerous, unhealthy, refuge for criminals" <http://grf.me/r2T> #ows Mayor Sam Adams orders camps cleared at 12:01 a.m. Sunday 11.13.11

Occupy Los Angeles News



[LOS ANGELES] "We must take the occupation seriously," shouted a woman over the gathering and vociferous crowd on Wednesday night for OLA's General Assembly.

Then a man added, "the medical tent was raided by addicts. Was this fucking unacceptable? Our nurse was almost pricked by used needles."

A tall man wearing a beret shouted in a thick African accent, "the world is watching us. We are creating waves across the oceans. We must not jeopardized this movement."

The GA heatedly started with occupiers addressing two common societal woes, drugs and alcohol abuse. Both manifested themselves at OLA earlier.

OLA News on October 25 wrote "To Rebel or To Party." That article detailed the discussion then occurring within OLA regarding alcohol and drug use inside its encampment. The question was whether the movement and the previous two could co-exist. Some occupiers thought the substances posed risks to the movement.

To expect the camp to become a "Drug Free Zone" as one occupier's tent sign proclaimed this week is being hopeful. OLA is active in nature especially on weekends when the number of people spike beyond the regular camp base. What comes in and goes out of the world's second most visible occupation site may be less predictable.

Anti-substance abuse messages are loud in American society. Former First Lady Nancy Reagan introduced a "just

say no" campaign during the "war on drugs" initiative in the 1980s when her husband Ronald Reagan was President. Such extreme slogans prove far easier to politically pronounce than they have been scientifically effective in reducing



addiction which millions of Americans face.

Very early on a man on the street said "get a job" to the people at OLA. Others now say to substance abusers, "just stop using drugs and alcohol or leave."

Practical? Will the latter in its simplicity work at OLA?

Also speaking up was a woman shown on page two with cigarette in hand. She wanted order in the Assembly and insisted a man named Juan be heard.

She said, "He may have good things to say."

But few seemed interested in hearing what Juan had to say yet they listened. The woman then pressed her fingers to her forehead. Early on she had recommended the OLA Media committee, which she is a member, further communicate to the encampment that some order had to be adhered to when it comes to drug and alcohol use and "all hours of the night partying." (next page)

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(cont.) The crowd did eventually and completely give way to Juan, momentarily. He used a bull horn and shouted, "mic check! Mic check!" Juan went back to a familiar argument he has made at other times

"people are wasting time" at General Assembly. Just as quickly the conversation shifted back to others who wanted to speak.

A man then said at Tuesday night's GA there was a strong desire to talk about finance.

"Apparently the donations have been put in four personal accounts. We need to talk about that" he said.

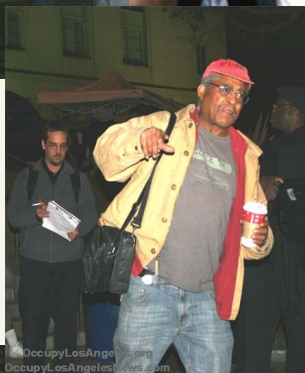
The crowd didn't want any of that conversation they wanted to talk about "drug use and safety." An LAPD officer stood nearby.

One woman passionately but forcefully said, "you wouldn't let someone come into your house do a line on the table in front of your two year old. Would you? If they are not down with this movement and they can't do it [drug free] we must tell them to leave now!"

"How you gonna tell people to leave a public area? You can't do that," another man said.

Juan then shouted with approval from some in the crowd, "just tell them we don't want your goddamn ass here. Leave!"

Mitch, Reporter/Photographer, Occupy LA Media, Los Angeles



Juan



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS LOS ANGELES CITY HALL NIGHTLY 730PM

Occupy Los Angeles News

