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The Wisconsin Light

A GRAND AND GLORIOUS DAY

Over One Million March In Nation's Capitol



John Quinlan

FREEDOM MARCHES FORWARD— With the White House in the background, Miss Liberty helped to capture the spirit of the day at the April 25 March on Washington.

One Man's Impressions Of The Great March On Washington

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]— One of my main impressions of the March On Washington is that it was pretty much a young people's affair. Roughly half women, half men, most were in their teens to 30-something with the 20's predominating.

It was an up-beat crowd, mellow, but celebratory, self-confident, not diffident nor shy, not angry but, I would say, definitely assertive and intensely determined to have our long denied

rights. "We're here! We're Queer! We're fabulous! Don't fuck with us!", a chant that was often heard throughout March weekend, captures the feeling well.

Another and even stronger impression that I have is that of a great, an almost overriding sense of community. Never in my life have I felt it so strongly that we have a Gay community in the truest sense of the word.

One night, near midnight, I stood in the Metro station, a vast place. Across from me, on the other side there were hundreds of people waiting for their train. Suddenly, spontaneously, everyone

TURN TO MARCH, PAGE 14

News Analysis By John Quinlan

[Washington, D.C.] - How do you measure the power of a day like April 25, 1993?

You can measure it in sheer numbers — despite an initial controversy, it's now clear that the March on Washington was the largest civil rights rally in our country's history. As of press time, the U.S. Park Service was expected to revise its infamously low crowd estimate upward toward that of the District of Columbia's: over 1.1 million people.

The enormous Mall that stretches from the Capitol to the Washington Monument was filled to overflowing. Hotel rooms were filled up in a hundred mile radius around the city. In a pleasantly refreshing reversal of the usual reality, nine out of ten of the people you met on the subways, in restaurants and on the streets were Gay and Lesbian.

Everyone was in agreement. No matter how you counted it, said Republican leader Sen. Robert Dole in the Washington Post, it was "a fairly substantial number of people." But ironically, at a time when the media is obsessing over how many of us there are or aren't, our power that day lay not in our sheer numbers, but elsewhere.

As the cameras panned the crowds that day, Americans saw people more or less like them, from all over, with and without children, of all ages and cultural backgrounds. These people were not a threat, they were well-behaved, and obviously, having a roaring good time.

For Congresspeople and their staffers who received hundreds of visits from people advocating for Lesbian and Gay rights, there was a sense of sudden relief that we weren't as bad as they might have thought after all. And suddenly doors that had long been shut to us were now open.

"I never would have expected it," a staffer to a moderate Republican Senator from the Midwest told the *Light*, "but you guys are all right."

"We get so many calls here from the NRA and Operation Rescue types, people who are obviously being coached, or who seem totally consumed by hatred. And we just stop listening to them after a while,"

she said. "The Gay and Lesbian people I've met this week are just so ordinary, so reasonable as they talk about their lives... Not what I expected at all. If first impressions are any indication, you guys are on the right track."

It was a time to put our best foot forward, to show America and our government who we are. But just as importantly, it was also a time to rediscover a sense of our "community."

You could feel an extremely tangible sense of that "community" anywhere you went in Washington last weekend. You could strike up a conversation instantly with any stranger that you would meet. There was a sense of gentility and camaraderie that pervaded the air. You felt it among the throngs at DuPont Circle, in the Mall, in the ballrooms, in the bars.

To call ourselves a "community" is in some sense laughable. If being a community solely means being a group of people defined by our common goals and characteristics, then we seem just the opposite. Not only are we as diverse as the general population, but our movement is built on our right to be different. If anything, we are a group that revels in our individuality — something that on the face of it seems directly opposed to a sense of community.

Our movement, like many movements, has often seemed to be held together by our unity against common enemies.

And yet this past week, there seemed an added dimension. We shared something. We felt something together. We are something together...

That sense of shared community lies more basically with the phenomenon that is the very foundation of our movement — the power inherent in our "coming out" as individuals, of simply being who we are in the face of enormous odds.

The power of the march lay not so much in the overwhelming strength of our numbers, but in the bonds that we share with each other, the integrity that lies within each of us as individuals. And when measured that way, what a powerful day it was.

Send Us Your Stories, Photos of The Great March

This edition of the *Wisconsin Light* is going to press just hours after our staff returned from covering April 25th's historic March on Washington.

An event this profound, with as many meanings as there were individuals in attendance, cannot possibly be described adequately in the pages of this issue. So we're asking for your help.

We are asking you, our readers, to submit "vignette-length" (short) articles on your experiences at the March, and its meaning for your life and the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual civil rights movement. Please try to limit yourself to several short, anecdotal paragraphs. Longer essays will be considered, but space is limited. Photos that show unusual or especially evocative aspects of the March weekend's experience would also be welcomed. Photographs can not be returned. Do not send negatives or color slides.

Even if you weren't able to attend, we're also hoping to hear your thoughts about "Where We're Going" as a community, a feature we'd like to continue on an ongoing basis. Submissions can be sent to the *Light* at the address listed on the paper's masthead on page 4. Deadline is Friday, May 7. Questions can be directed to the *Light* office or project director John Quinlan of the *Light's* Madison bureau at (608) 256-8100.



Jerry Johnson

ON, WISCONSIN— Approximately one thousand Wisconsinites journeyed to Washington to March on April 25.

Phil Donahue, Jesse Jackson, Gerry Studds Speak at the March

[Milwaukee]- The following are excerpts from some of the most enthusiastically received and most impressive speeches given before and after the March. They are given in order of their speaking.

Phil Donahue

It is my honor to speak to the thousands and thousands of Americans who gather here today to say out loud what we already know in our hearts; that homophobia is fear and ignorance. And it is to our nation that we now say with one voice: **Get Over It!**

To those who believe that the provisions of the U.S. Constitution extend to everyone — except Gay men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgenders, we say with one voice: **Get Over It!**

To those who would say that Gay people can serve in the military only if they obey an Executive Order which tells them to sit down and shut up, we say with one voice: **Get Over It!**

To those from organized religion who would attempt to use the Word of God to legitimize homophobia, we say with one voice: **Get Over It!**

To Pat Robertson and John Cardinal O'Conner, we say with one voice: **Get Over It!**

To Sam Nunn and Colin Powell, we say with one voice: **Get Over It!**

To those who are frightened by Sister Boom-Boom, we say with one voice: **Get Over It!**

And when we, as a nation, are over it, we can, as we do here today, stand united in admiration for Lesbians and Gays.

Rev. Jesse Jackson

In the 1960's we marched under the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King for civil rights. Today you march for the same reason. In the 1960's we marched against the white people who hated us. Today, you march against the same people, the people who hate you, the people who have fled the cities.



REV. JESSE JACKSON

In the 1960's we marched against bigoted, fearful white politicians. Today, you march against the same bigoted, fearful white politicians.

I am a Black man. We never had a closet to protect us against fascism and meanness.

The Rainbow coalition turned out 7 million voters. We will now turn that coalition into an army of 7 million strong for rights. We will not turn back! We will march stronger and stronger.

Today we march with you, proclaiming our oneness in the human family. We validate all the members of gorgeous American mosaic. We must live together as brothers and sister. We must not live apart, driven apart by meanness, by foolish people.

This is America! This is no place for gender oppression!

We must measure human rights by character, not by race, not by sexual orientation, not by religion! We must reject Hitler and Mussolini and their spiritual descendants. They have bicycle brains. We must go another way. Let them join the human race!

No American has the right to deny another American equal protection under the law! No American has the right to push another American around!

There is no suggestion of a ban on doctors who are Gay or Lesbian, who can handle the most intimate parts of your body when you are sick. But they say that the same person can not pick up a gun and give their life for their country!

If a person can teach your child physics, how can you deny them the right to serve in the military?

It is foolish to give somebody power because they are a bible-totting, hymn-singing maniac like (David) Koresh. Why give Koresh points because he's a heterosexual maniac?

We must judge people by character, behavior and caring. The Biblical basis for a relationship is love! This is what Jesus taught. This is the love test that Jesus taught.

The military must have its own rules. It

must not have its own standard for relationships. There must be one standard, one goal for Gay and Lesbian Americans. It must be love!

Watch Fascist instincts. The character traits of Hitler are not dead. They exist in our society today. They separate, condemn and kill people, African American people, Gay people, Jews!

The very heart of Fascism is self-righteousness. It finds reasons for eliminating people because of its twisted mentality!

Gay and Lesbian people must fight with us for justice! You must fight with us for rights! We must fight! We must fight to become a community of mercy and justice!

We, African Americans, Gay Americans, Lesbian Americans, have no higher rule than the Golden Rule. That is not their rule, the Fascist rule. It must be our rule!

I am here today because it is right! I am here because you are real men, real women! I am here today because you, Gay and Lesbian people, are in the right! I am here today to join you!

Rep. Gerry Studds

Thirty years ago, Martin Luther King led one quarter of a million people to this very place and asked this country to keep a promise, a promise implicit in the Constitution, but not yet explicit in our laws. He helped us write a magnificent chapter in the history of civil rights.

Today a million Americans have come to this place to ask our country to help us write the last remaining, unfinished chapter in that history. Look, look around you. This is history that is worth fighting for. And that is why we have armed forces.

But some people seemed to have forgotten what it is they're supposed to defend. It is not just a piece of geography. Every army does that. What they are supposed to do is preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Well, look out here on the Mall Senator Nunn, General Powell. There are a million people here, Senator and they are very, very brave! Especially, General, the ones in uniform!

But they are not yet free!

The question is not whether Gay men and Lesbians will serve in the Armed Forces. They always have and they always will at every rank and level. The question is whether they will be allowed to do so openly and with dignity, with pride. Or whether they will be compelled to live a lie!

The defense rationale falls of its own weight after roughly two seconds of reflection. Don't tell us about security. You can not blackmail someone who has nothing to hide!

And don't give us that tired old mantra about discipline and good order and morale. We've heard that before.

In 1948 the same words, the very same words, were used when President Truman issued an executive order ending racial segregation in the Armed Forces.

We have read the Navy's report on Tailhook. And we have concluded nonetheless that it would be wrong, fundamentally wrong, to ban heterosexuals from serving in the Armed Forces!

The standard for all should be conduct, not status.

Look at this enormous family. Do you hear that Senator Helms? FAMILY! Do you hear that Senator Helms? SELF-RESPECT!



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A collaborative program of the Milwaukee AIDS Project and STD Specialities Clinic.

Madison's Scheel House Wins City Approval With Unanimous Vote

[Madison]- By a unanimous vote on April 19, the city of Madison's Plan Commission approved a zoning variance for the Rodney Scheel House, a 23 unit complex designed to provide affordable housing for AIDS and HIV infected individuals. While the decision could be overturned on appeal by a 2/3 vote of the Common Council, local political observers consider that unlikely. With this last hurdle out of the way, a September groundbreaking is likely for the new facility.

In March, anger and homophobic invective filled the air when a letter was sent to the residents of an east side neighborhood announcing the proposed siting of the Scheel House in their area. Threats of arson were received at the

offices of the Madison AIDS Support Network and the homes of its housing committee members. Police are investigating.

In mid-April, MASN and Scheel House volunteers hosted a community forum in the neighborhood, and many questions were answered and misconceptions put aside. While testimony by a handful of opponents at the Plan Commission hearing revealed that some neighbors remain hostile to the project, supporters of the project outnumbered opponents during the public hearing by five to one. The house, which is being funded by \$60,000 in private donations and a \$1.2 million federal grant, is named in honor of the late community leader and Gay bar owner Rodney Scheel.

Madison's United To Celebrate 15 Years Of Community Service

[Madison]- The Madison Community United is celebrating an important milestone in its history with a 15th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday evening, June 5th, from 7-12:30 at the Concourse Hotel. The "Queer of the Year" dinner will be a chance to celebrate the work of the only social action/social service organization serving the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual community in Wisconsin, which has touched tens of thousands of lives in its relatively short existence.

Tickets are available on a sliding scale, from \$20-\$35. The organization is at a crucial stage in its development and the event's importance as a fundraiser is, of course, paramount, says United volunteer Dale Johnson. However, while \$35 represents the standard ticket price for many Madison area civil rights dinners, the dinner's organizers established the self-selecting sliding scale to make the dinner accessible to more people.

State Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Dane County Supervisor R. Richard Wagner are serving as the honorary co-chairs of the event. In what is expected to become an annual tradition, an awards committee is now forming to select individuals who have made outstanding contributions to

further L/G/B rights. Everyone, both in Madison and beyond, is welcome to attend what organizers hope will be the premier social event of the year. Persons wishing to nominate individuals for the awards, or who wish to reserve tickets or get more information, may call the United at (608) 255-8582.

Log Cabin Club Criticizes March Platform

[Milwaukee]- The Log Cabin Club of Wisconsin supports the National Log Cabin Federation in its criticism of the 54-plank platform created by the National March on Washington committee. "They have included many items that do not directly impact on the Gay and Lesbian community," said James Randolph, President of the Wisconsin group.

"The official 'demands' of the marchers include items on foreign policy, on drug abuse and on domestic communication that are not even known to 90% of the participants in the

Washington march," said Randolph. The Wisconsin Club further criticized the manner in which these planks were inserted into the Gay and Lesbian agenda. "The selection process for delegates to the agenda was based on sexual and racial quotas which did not at all reflect the demographics of those marching," said the Log Cabin spokesman.

Richard Tafel, President of the National Log Cabin Federation which represents 30 local Gay Republican clubs in 20

states, said in an interview about the 54 planks, "The whole Gay and Lesbian community is not marching under a particular list of 'isms.' I think in the future this platform will be hung around the Gay community's neck by the religious right."

For more information on the Log Cabin Federation or the Log Cabin Club of Wisconsin, please contact the secretary, Jim McFarland at (414) 276-5428.

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- Pansies (mixed)
- Impatients - 8" - 12" -
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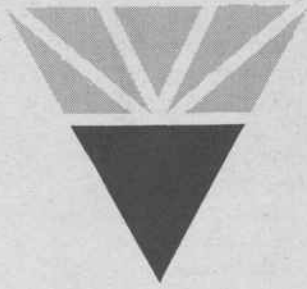
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C.S.P., INCORPORATED

THE WISCONSIN LIGHT is published biweekly by NOVO GRAPHICS, LTD., with offices at 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. Advertising and copy deadline is the Thursday prior to publication. Opinions expressed by writers in WISCONSIN LIGHT are not necessarily those of the publisher, editor, or our advertisers. Any reference made to any individual or organization should not be construed as an indication of the same's sexual or affection orientation or preference. All copy, text, design, photos, and illustrations in advertisements are published with the understanding that the advertiser is fully authorized and has secured proper written consent for the use of names, pictures, or testimonials of any living person, and WISCONSIN LIGHT may lawfully publish and cause such publication to be made; and the advertiser agrees by submitting ads to indemnify and save blameless the publication of any error that may be contained in said ad. WISCONSIN LIGHT does not accept any responsibility for any claims made by advertisers. The entire contents of WISCONSIN LIGHT are © Copyrighted and protected under the Federal Copyright Act and International Conventions. Reproduction of any portion of any issue will not be permitted without express written permission of NOVO GRAPHICS, LTD. Legal venue is Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. Printed in the U.S.A.

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EDITORIAL

Together We Can Bring the Spirit of the Washington March to Milwaukee

Last Sunday hundreds of thousands of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals marched into history. The spirit of celebration, pride and determination displayed in the streets of Washington D.C. will long be remembered by all who participated or watched.

On Sunday June 13th, we have a chance to make history in Wisconsin by joining together to make the annual Wisconsin Pride Parade, the biggest ever.

Mark that day on your calendar. Together we can show our Pride. Together we can show our determination. Together we can celebrate our community. Together we can bring the spirit of Washington to the streets of Milwaukee.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Attending the March on Washington Was One Absolute High

By Terry Boughner

Just in case you haven't noticed from the articles in this issue, going to Washington for the March was one absolute high. And, from what I hear from everyone I've talked to who was there, they felt the same way. In fact, Wednesday evening, as I write this, I'm still on a high from it. As Ron Geiman said, it's very hard to write.

Images pile up on images, memories overlap, so that I just sit back and stare, remembering.

I will never get over the warm sense of community that I felt all around me. I'd doubted so many, many times whether there was a Lesbian/Gay community or not. Now I know there is one because I've experienced it. I felt it. I was a part of it and it was beautiful.

I remember the smiles on people's faces. I will remember the rainbow flags, the buttons and the banners calling for our civil rights. I will remember the lovers going along hand in hand, unafraid to show open affection.

I remember what it was like being in the majority for a change. God, it was wonderful. There were no fears of dirty looks or cat-calls or taunts. There was no fear that I — or anyone else would be bashed for doing what straights do all the time.

I remember being free, really free, for the first time in my life. I was with my own people, people just like me, Gay women and men, and it was wonderful. I don't think I've ever come so close to understanding why Jewish people are so devoted to Israel. If we had someplace like that, I'd give my all for it too.

I remember that barriers seemed to break down, barriers between Lesbians and Gay men, barriers between young and old, barriers between the races. We are all Gay. For one brief, bright shining weekend, we could be ourselves. Never have I felt so good.

As I told Ron, there is a horrible frustration in writing about all this. How can mere words possibly convey what it was like? How can words give the heady feeling of what it was to be there? Maybe someone will find those words. They elude me.

There were times at the March when the emotion was too much. There were times when I wanted to cry. I know that Jerry and Allan and Brent felt the same way.

There were times when we all wanted to shout for joy. I can well understand the young man who mounted the rim of the fountain on Dupont Circle on Friday night to sing in a beautifully resonant voice "I am who I am" from *La Cage aux Folles*. That was a telling, magic moment among so many. The words of the song fit so perfectly with what I and everyone else felt.

I remember ACT UP as they marched in the parade. They were so intense, the shock troops of the movement. It felt so secure seeing them there. I remember the somber black and white of the Colorado banner as it processed regally down

Pennsylvania Avenue. I remember Indiana as they entered the Mall chanting, "We're here. We're Queer. We're bringing up the rear." They were the last unit in the 7 hour-plus parade.

All these things and a million more, I'll never forget. Nor will I ever forget the tremendous energy, the vitality, the overwhelming sense of dynamism that seemed to pervade everything.

So, you see, it was a good, a very good experience. I will never forget it. I will never forget the people I met. I will never forget the happy faces of the ones I will never meet nor see again. But they are all there, out there somewhere, all part of my community as I am, as are we all who are Lesbian and Gay. There's a good confident feeling in that.

LETTERS

Unrelated Adults

TO THE EDITOR:

As you know, the Lesbian and Gay community is in a desperate struggle for its civil rights. Colorado's Amendment 2 is only one of the measures sponsored by family values, right-wing Christian groups. More than

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a month ago, the Idaho Citizens Alliance, another Fundamentalist group, filed a proposed ballot initiative called "Stop Special Rights" for the 1994 election in Idaho. Similar initiatives are being pushed in Florida, California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Ohio, and other states. The religious right is trying to export its homophobic political agenda from Colorado to the remaining 49 states.

You, who read *Wisconsin Light* can participate in the struggle in an inexpensive way.

Many national magazines do business in Colorado by operating subscription departments there. New subscribers are solicited by means of business-reply-mail cards appearing in those magazines. Lesbians, Gay men and their friends can send in those cards with "Boycott Colorado!" written on them. If enough cards are received, the magazines should move their business out of Colorado. It would be that expensive for them.

Here is a partial list of magazines doing business in Colorado:

The Atlantic, Christianity Today, Computer Shopper, Consumer Reports, USA, Essence, Field and Stream, GQ, Nation's Business, The New Yorker, Outdoor Life, Psychology Today, Rolling Stone, Smithsonian, US, U.S. News and World Report, Vanity Fair, Video Review, and many others. Please help.

— Mark Watkins
Denver, CO

Colorado Boycott

TO THE EDITOR:

The *Milwaukee Sentinel* revealed on April 14, 1993, that the Wisconsin Supreme Court allowed renters to not rent to unrelated adults. While the words "Gay" and "Lesbian" or "homosexual" were never used, it was obvious that this will impact greatly on the Gay/Lesbian community.

We have been guaranteed our civil rights with regard to housing discrimination for several years since the state constitution had been amended protecting our rights in a variety of areas. This particular decision, however, gives ammunition to those who would discriminate and abuse our rights.

There are thousands of Gay/Lesbian couples in Wisconsin who must now fear for the security of their living situation. In a state where the individual's rights are protected, the rights of the collective are abused.

We cannot marry and have our marriages recognized or certainly many Gay/Lesbian couples would do so in the interests of developing a more mainstream family environment.

But there is no way this can be done yet. So, while many thousands of us are supportive of the family concept, in our fashion, we are denied this by a shortsighted state and court.

My living arrangement is no more a "conduct" than is that of the Supreme Court Justices who miopically determined the fate of unmarried couples. My "status" however, is that of any citizen who wishes to be comfortable and secure in my home, whether with or without a life partner. I suggest that the Wisconsin Supreme Court review their decision with the realization that it was hasty and not clearly thought out as to its realities and its ramifications.

— Richard Mence
Milwaukee

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The Numbers Game: Did More Than A Million People Attend the March?

By Bill Meunier

There has been a lot of controversy over just how many of us were there at the March on Washington. The plain simple truth is that no one can give an accurate figure with any degree of certainty.

The US Park Service Police say that the march attracted 300,000. They base this figure on the number of buses that came in and the Metro subway ridership during the day of the march as well as aerial photos of the marchers.

The March organizers say that over 1,000,000 marched. They cite the fact that all flights into Washington were booked solid for more than a week in advance. They also point out that the nearest available hotel rooms were over 50 miles away.

The Emergency Government Co-ordinator for Washington D.C. says there were 500,000 and the Mayor of D.C. says there were over a 1,000,000.

Chances are that the true figure lies somewhere in the middle of all these estimates.

There were severe problems with getting an accurate count of the marchers. If everyone had arrived for the march as it began it would have been easy. As things were though there was no one time when everyone was together in one place. As the march began hundreds of thousands were still arriving at the assembly grounds. As it ended hundreds of thousands had already gone home.

Furthermore many who came to march got frustrated by the delays and walked over to the rally site. Add to that the marchers who never got to the assembly grounds but just joined in somewhere along the route and you begin to get an idea on how difficult it is to pin down a realistic figure.

Some things are known. Washington Post reporters counted 210 buses parked in the Pentagon Parking lot. In addition to these buses there were two parking lots full of buses outside of RFK Stadium. No one counted these buses, but given the size of these parking lots it would not be unreasonable to assume that this at least

200 more buses were parked there. If these buses carried an average of 45 people each, this would mean that all told there were 180,000 brought in by bus.

There were an estimated 450,000 riders on the Metro subway. The vast majority were thought to be marchers so that would add perhaps another 250,000 to 300,000 to the 180,000 who were bused in.

Not everyone was bused in or took the Metro. Many marchers were housed within walking distance and some brave souls took cars and fought to get a parking space. These groups may have added another 100,000 or more to the total.

And what about those who didn't march but stood on the curbs, on top of monuments, and the steps of some of the public buildings to watch, cheer and encourage those who were marching? Even though they didn't march themselves an argument could be made that they were participating. An estimated 150,000 watched and cheered on at least part of the march and many of these did attend at least part of the rally.

Add all of this up and you come up with between 680,000 and 730,000 individuals who in one way or another participated in the march and rally. While these figures may be below the 1,000,000 the Parade organizers quote they are considerably higher than the Park Police estimate.

The March organizers made a solid effort to make sure that this march was not undercounted. Marchers were encouraged to sign in, numbered wrist bands were sold and hundreds of thousands of surveys were handed out. In addition to all of this, the march organizers hired an independent service to estimate the crowd size.

The problem is that while these attempts may provide some conclusive numbers, it will be several weeks before their results become known. Meanwhile the controversy rages. As one D.C. Police officer said when asked what he thought about the crowd size, "That's like asking how many angels can dance on the head of pin. There's really no sure way to tell."

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Commitment Ceremony In Front Of IRS Building Attracts Thousands

By Denise Matyka
and Margaret McMurray

When we arrived in Washington, D.C. for the Gay and Lesbian rights march, we wondered if this historic weekend might be the perfect time to honor our 11 years together. On Saturday morning, we put on our matching T-shirts that boldly proclaimed, "Wisconsin, the First Lesbian/Gay Rights State," and took the Metro into the city to participate in a massive commitment ceremony, the largest civil rights demonstration of its kind.

The subway was packed with couples of all ages who were laughing and talking about "the wedding." Everybody was in a giddy mood; as we left the Metro to ascend to the street, the silly chants began: "We're Here, We're Queer, We're Riding Up the Escalator."

The ceremony was scheduled for 11 a.m. in front of the IRS Building. Since the internal revenue codes contain the official definition of family, it was appropriate that we meet at the IRS to show them what our family looked like.

Thousands jammed the street in front of the IRS. We saw cowboy and cowgirl couples, grooms in matching tuxes, and a few wedding dresses. Most participants were casually dressed for a day in the park. We saw many grey heads and a few people with AIDS in wheelchairs. Most appeared to be in their thirties or older.

We attended the ceremony with our friends Diane and Theresa from Sacramento. All four of us met when we were working as field organizers for the National Organization for Women during the ERA campaign in 1981. Their romance began that same year, so we consider them our oldest friends as a couple.

The ceremony lasted about an hour. The Rev. Troy Perry, minister and activist in the Gay church movement, presided over the festivities. He spoke about the oppression we face from organized religion and introduced Lesbian and Gay couples who had been together nearly forty years. We then clasped hands and took turns repeating simple vows of our commitment to each other while tears streamed down our cheeks.

At the end of the vows, everybody kissed and a big cheer went up from the crowd. People threw rice as the wedding march played over the P.A. system. We

took many photographs, and joined the other couples in scrawling our names in chalk on the street surrounded by a big heart.

Many of the couples drifted off to a large reception. We decided to opt for a more intimate gathering and went instead to a nearby hotel where we split a bottle of champagne with our friends and toasted our good fortunes at having shared 11 wonderful years with our partners.

Military Veterans To Be Grand Marshals In Pride Parade

[Milwaukee]- The Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Pride Committee has announced its selection of this year's Grand Marshals for the June 13th Pride Parade.

In recognition of their service to their country, MLGPC has named America's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Veterans as the Grand Marshals for the 1993 Wisconsin Pride Parade.

"We are proud to have our parade led by those who have given of themselves to our country," said MLGPC President Alan Stroik. "Its time that America fully realizes the positive impact that Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender veterans have had on America's military."

"All veterans with or without uniform are encouraged to participate and help lead off this year's parade," said Parade Co-ordinator Chris Lubus. "We also encourage them to bring their families and partners to join them in this celebration."

The parade will begin at noon at Milwaukee's Juneau Park. Veterans are asked to register at the Parade registration desk. Those registering will march as a group at the head of the parade.

Participating veterans are encouraged to bring and carry flags forming a huge colorguard for the parade.

For more information on the 1993 Wisconsin Pride Parade call the Pride Line at 342-2330.

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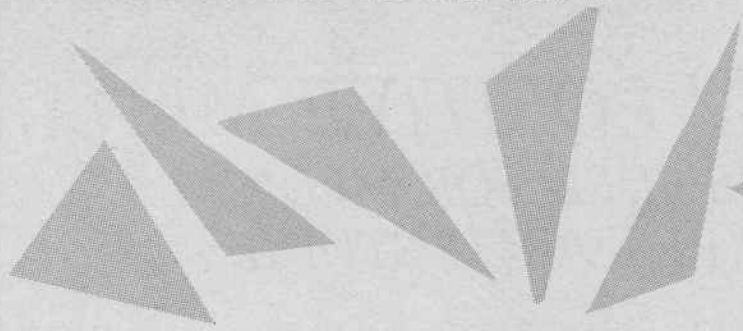
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The Light LIVELY ARTS

John Dillon Directs His Last Show Before Departing Rep Theater

By Woodrow Thalberg

John Dillon, veteran artistic director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater (MRT), directs Shakespeare's *The Tempest* on the Powerhouse stage in his final Milwaukee at bat before taking his leave of the MRT. Since this is the play Shakespeare himself used to leave the stage, one would assume Dillon would be swinging on the fences. He may not hit the ball out of the park, but he does have a solid aesthetic hit.

The Tempest is the story of Prospero, the deposed Duke of Milan. Years ago he was set adrift with his daughter Miranda by his usurping brother. They landed on an enchanted isle where he gained magical powers. When his evil brother, along with his patron the King of Naples, happen to be sailing past, he raises a storm to shipwreck them upon the island and redress his grievances.

The highly talented Daniel Mooney appears too young and robust to play Prospero, a man ready to leave the stage of life. His youth, combined with a tinge of anger in his performance, makes it difficult to believe he has made peace with the world and has forgiven his enemies.

Catherine Lynn Davis was born to play Miranda. It is no surprise she has played the role before. John Adams is solid and true as her suitor, Prince Ferdinand. As wise, old Gonzalo, Richard Halverson dominates the scenes of King Alonso's court. He carries himself like Robert E. Lee and has a costume to match. James Pickering as the drunken Stephano looks like he is having more fun on stage than at any time since he played the equally alcoholic Joxer in *Juno and the Paycock* a few years back.

Perhaps the most memorable performances are those of Prospero's servants. As the monster, Caliban, Jim Abele has an entrance so terrifying one will believe he was "got by the devil himself." With a shaved head and deft

movements, Johanna Melamed is a picture of androgynous grace as the spirit Ariel. Never before has her voice been so resonant and confident.

The set is a disappointment. For a magical isle it is surprisingly austere. The slide projections that substitute for scenery are ineffectual. The costumes are among the most breathtaking ever seen on the Milwaukee stage. Still, it seems they are on a bit backwards. The King's court is magically dressed while the inhabitants of the enchanted island, save Caliban, are costumed plainly.

What worries this reviewer is not the ability of the MRT to do classic English theater, but the Milwaukee audience. At a sparsely attended weekend performance I attended, the crowd was incredibly passive except for the slapstick scenes. The intermission banter made it clear that much of the audience had little knowledge of Shakespeare. Is Milwaukee cosmopolitan enough for the Bard? Perhaps we will find out next year when the MRT does *Love's Labors Lost*.

The Tempest will be playing at the MRT through May 23.

Fest City Singers To Present Musical Comedy Revue, 'Boyfriends' June 4-6

[Milwaukee]- The Fest City Singers will offer a prelude to Gay Pride festivities with *Boyfriends*, a musical comedy review filled with romance, love, deception and friendship. The show will run for four performances in the Skylight Theatre, 813 N. Jefferson, on June 4-6, 1993.

Written and fully staged by Peter Mortenson, with musical direction by Peggy Lozier, *Boyfriends* involves the breakup of "the ideal Gay couple," Rich and Tim, and the attempts of their friends to comfort, kibitz and generally interfere. Mortenson's original lyrics set to well-

Artists To Display Their Talents May 23 In Madison's Orton Park

[Madison]- Madison's New Harvest Foundation is organizing a celebration of artists of the Gay and Lesbian community. Scheduled for Sunday, May 23, this event — the first of its kind in Madison — will take place in Orton Park, deep in the heart of Madison's 6th District, home to many Gay men, Lesbians and their friends.

This celebration of creativity will coincide with the installation of a plaque commemorating the George Segal sculpture, *Gay Liberation*, which was installed in Orton Park for four years, from 1987 to 1991.

Artists of all genres are encouraged to participate. This is the first in what is hoped to become an annual affair, and those responsible are making plans with the intention of being as inclusive as possible. This is **not** a juried show. The overall goals are celebration and appreciation.

Due to site restrictions, those who perform will need to be scheduled. It is expected that visual artists will be more easily accommodated. New Harvest will be responsible for publicity, which will be

aimed at attracting a large attendance from around the state, and basic organization. The means of display is the individual artist's responsibility.

In fulfillment of our mission as a philanthropic organization, a small donation of proceeds from art sales on May 23 would be welcome.

For more information, or to register, call Earl Bricker at (608) 244-0289 or write: Celebrating Art, The New Harvest Foundation, P.O. Box 1786, Madison, WI 53701.

Share Your March Experiences May 6 In Madison

[Madison]- The Madison AIDS Support Network and the *Wisconsin Light*, in conjunction with a variety of community groups, will be sponsoring a gathering in the Memorial Union for people who want to share their experiences of April 25's March on Washington.

The gathering will occur on Thursday, May 6th at 7:00 pm. The room will be posted on the "Today in the Union" listings on the ground floor bulletin board under "Gay/Lesbian March Retrospective." People are encouraged to bring their photos, videos and memories. Both those who attended the March, and those who did not, are invited to share in the experience.

For more information, contact MASN at (608) 238-6276.

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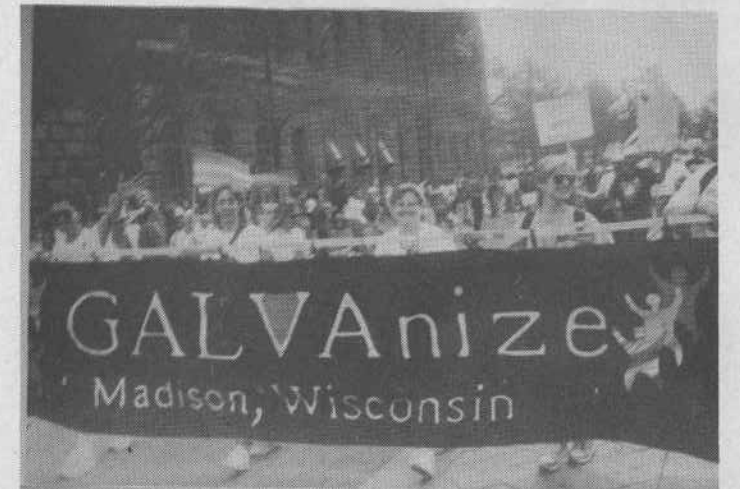
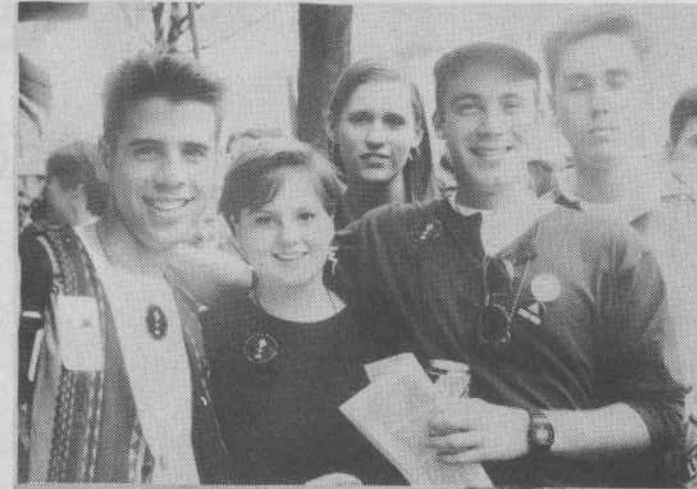
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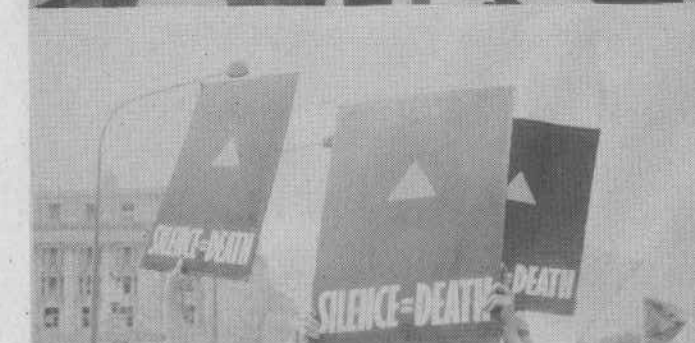
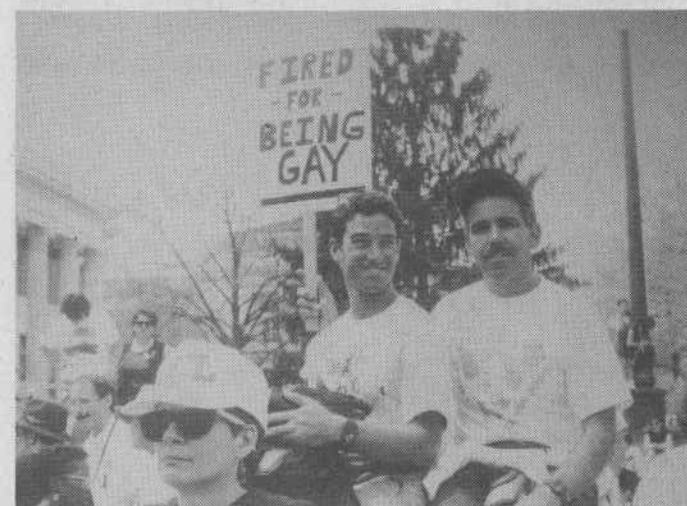
Wisconsin at the March On Washington April 25, 1993

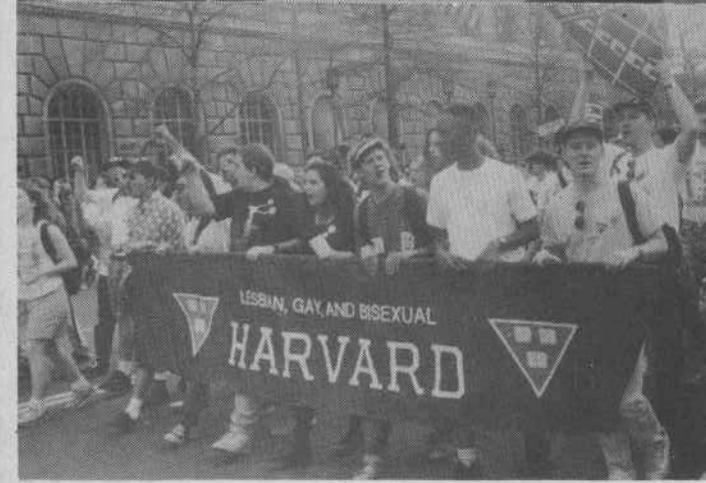
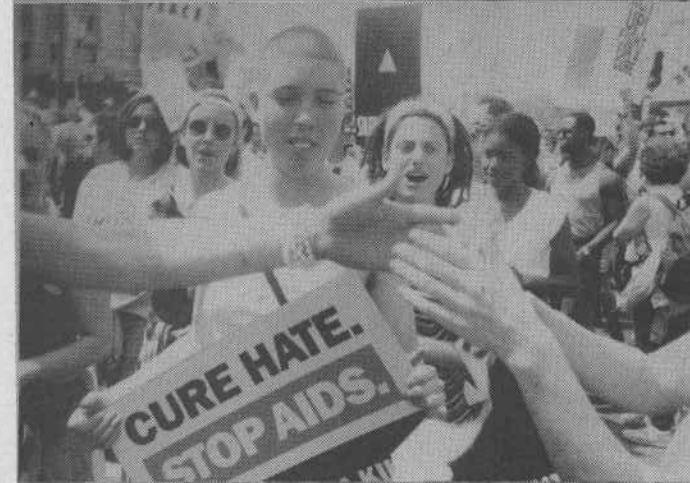
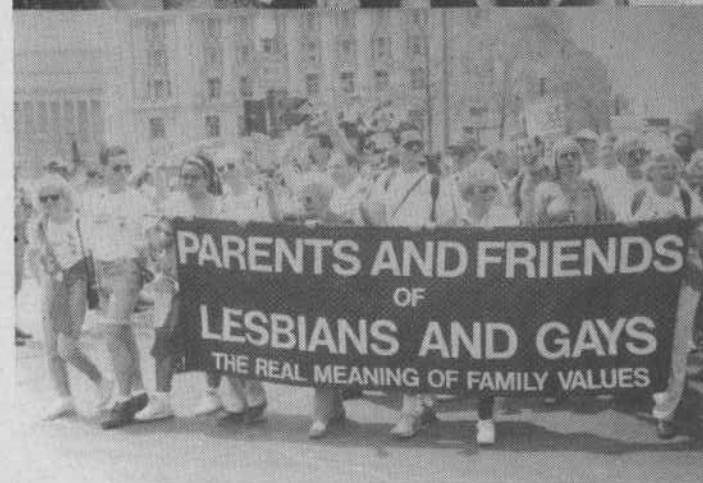
Photos by Jerry Johnson



March On Washington April 25, 1993

All Photos By Jerry Johnson

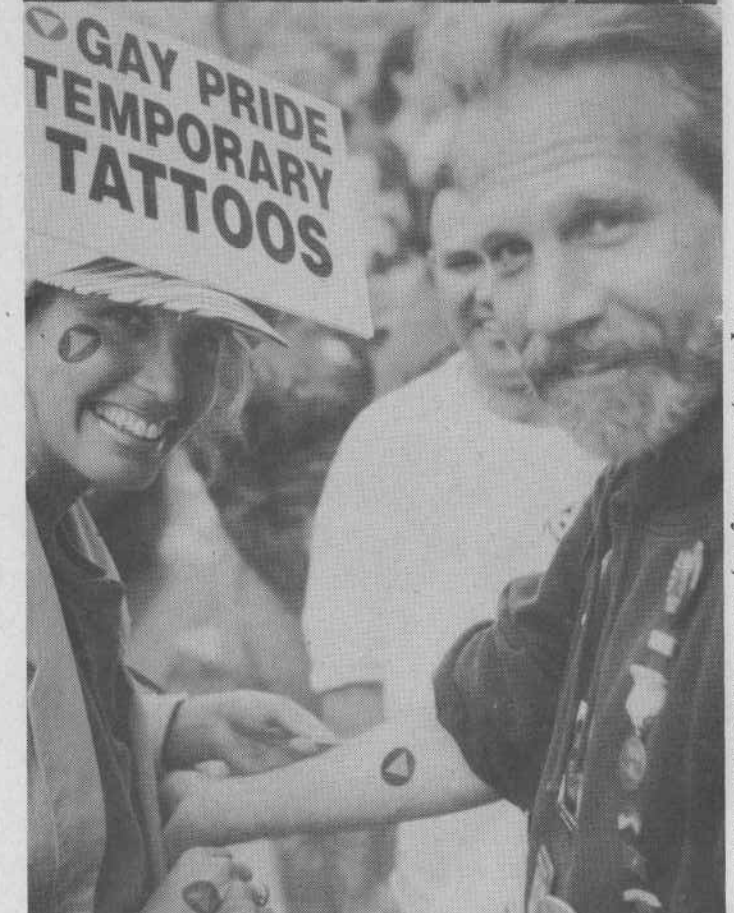
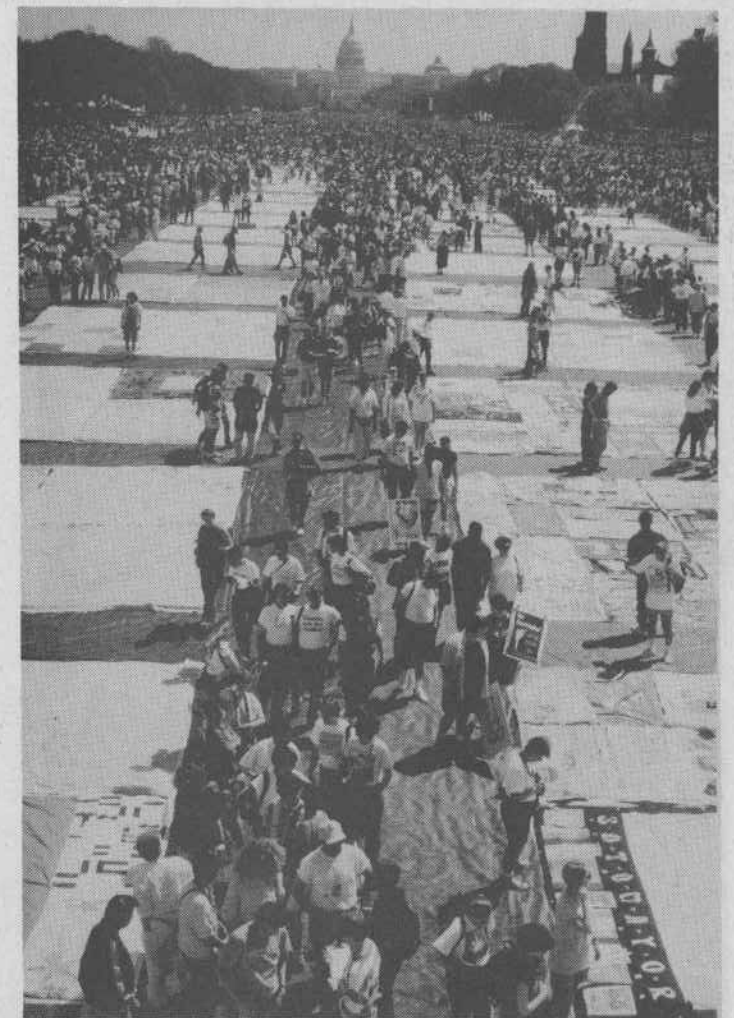






March On Washington Weekend April 22-25, 1993

Photos by Jerry Johnson



1,000 March From Wisconsin In Parade That Lasted Seven Hours

By Bill Meunier

The Badger state contingent in the March on Washington was both lucky and unlucky. It was lucky in that it got a spot on the assembly grounds just off to the right of the stage. It was unlucky in that it was one of the last groups to take to the street in the seven hour long march.

500 Wisconsin marchers present. They contented themselves by listening to the speeches, laughing at the comics, and of course eyeing up the crowd. Every ear was straining to hear the latest news of which group had stepped off and the latest rumor of when it would be Wisconsin's turn to step into the street.

They cheered Phil Donahue when he told America's homophobes to "Get over it." They shouted "Keep Hope Alive" in response to Jesse Jackson's entreaties. They hugged friends they didn't know would be there.

They also searched for water and food and a way to keep cool on a hot Washington day. A few feet away from the Wisconsin group there was a bubbler (okay water fountain to those who aren't from Milwaukee), but it couldn't keep up with the demand and kept running dry.

There was a first aid station across the street. Badly needed water was dispensed in 10 ounce bottles. The station also helped out with sun block lotion and gave away hats to those who were getting sunburned.

Finally at about 2:00, the March Marshals came by and told the group to

assemble in the street. Excited cheering eager to go, the Wisconsin contingent quickly complied. Unfortunately nothing happened. For the next three hours the Wisconsinites sat on curbs, curled up for naps on the grass, and tried to amuse themselves as best they could.

Every so often the groups in front of Wisconsin would move a few feet and everyone would get ready. Unfortunately the few feet was all the progress that was made.

One popular amusement came from Hawaii. The marchers from the Aloha state were right in front of Wisconsin and brought out a jump rope. A crowd soon gathered cheering those who were able to jump with success and moaning when they missed. A few Wisconsin marchers pointed at the Hawaiian's and chanted "You're a bunch of sissies." A group of Hawaiian's chanted back "So what's your point?"

By 4:00 a full scale mutiny was close to breaking out. Some were suggesting that the group just go ahead and march without permission. Others were trying to convince anyone who would listen that they should just "go over the hill" (the Washington monument hill to be exact) skip the march and go to the rally.

Finally about 4:15, several marshals appeared to assure the last groups that it wouldn't be long. For the fourth time everyone picked up their banners and got into place. Again however, it was a false alarm. Then at about 4:45, groups near Wisconsin began to move into the street.

Soon it was the Wisconsin group's turn to move forward.

They didn't get very far though. The marshal's asked that Wisconsin let Virginia pass in front of it. When Wisconsin's complied, the grateful Virginia chanted "Thank you Wisconsin," over and over again.

Unfortunately several other states tried to follow Virginia and a potential collision between Wisconsin and Arizona seemed imminent. Rather than start a new civil war, Wisconsin politely yielded but not without a considerable amount of booing from the Badger State.

As Wisconsin finally did get on the move it marched behind a banner that read "Wisconsin- The Original Gay Rights State." As it passed the forlorn troops from Ohio, the Buckeye group was screaming "Ohio Wants to March." The Badgers replied "Wait Your Turn."

Suddenly Wisconsin was at the starting point and stepped off proudly. The first cheer was Give me a W-I-S-C-O-N-S-I-N, what's it spell Wisconsin! followed by chants of "The First State, the first state." in honor of Wisconsin having been the first state with a Gay Lesbian Bisexual rights law.

At the beginning of the march the chants were more political, "Hey, Hey Ho-Ho Lift the Ban its got to go." (or Collin Powell has to go," or "homophobia has got to go." Another favorite was "Wisconsin Fights For Rights."

As the group passed the White House it tried to send a message to President Clinton. Pointing at the Presidential mansion the Wisconsin marchers shouted over and over again "Keep Your Word." Many of those watching joined in.

It was in front of the White House that the only counter demonstrations Wisconsin saw were in place. Outraged

by their signs reading, "God Hates Fags" and "Two Gay Rights Aids and Hell," the group yelled "God is Gay and She's Pro Choice." This was followed by shouts of "Shame Shame Shame." The volume was loud enough to totally drown out the bullhorns used by the protestors.

It was after this encounter that the group lightened up. Police officers doubled over in laughter as the group chanted "Don't be cruel, don't be mean, we're a bunch of Dairy Queens," and "We're here, we're queer, we're pastuerized, Get used to it."

As Wisconsin headed towards the rally grounds, a new chant began, "We're tired, we're bitchy, we want our rights now." This was appropriately followed by a full circle snap. The crowd on the streets loved it. It seemed that half of them were laughing and the other half were joining in.

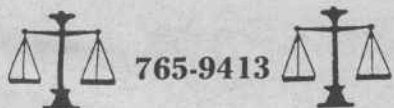
The crowd lining the streets seemed to come alive. They applauded when Wisconsin "mooded" everytime it stopped. They cheered when part of the delegation chanted "M-I-L-K drink your milk it makes you Gay," while another part yelled "Skim milk, whole milk, 2% we think its really 10%." The shouted approval as the marchers spelled out Wisconsin and chanted "The First State" and they clapped when the Badger group yelled "Colby, Cheddar, Wisconsin does it better."

One photographer followed for several blocks taking pictures. When asked why she replied "You are one of the most spirited and fun groups in the march. These people have been sitting here for six hours and they are tired, but you still got a great reaction out of them."

No one could argue with that, especially if you were from Wisconsin. After all "Colby Cheddar, Wisconsin does it better."

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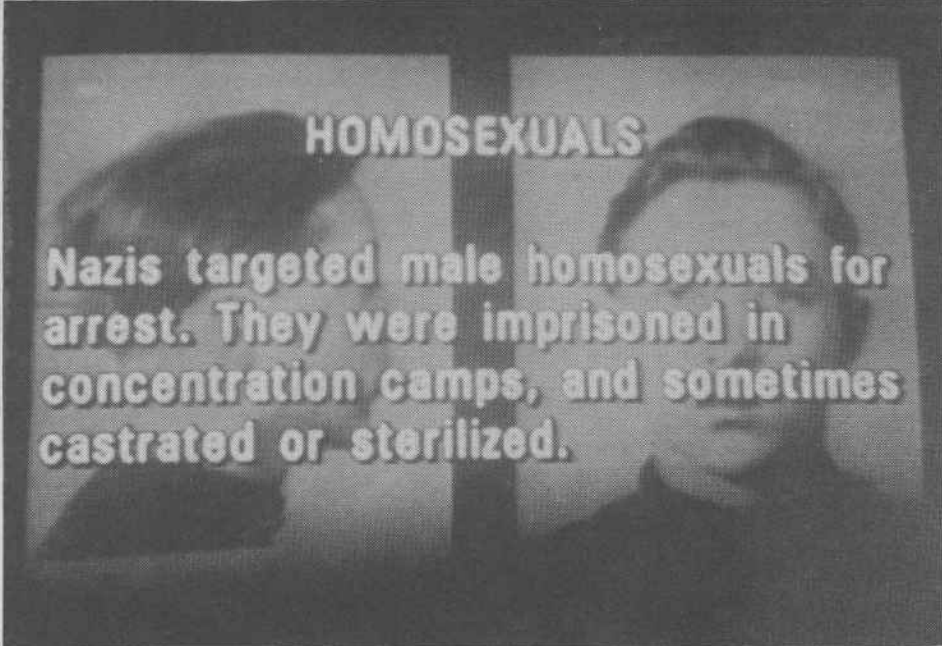
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Jerry Johnson

HORRORS OF HORRORS—The National Holocaust Museum opened to the public on Monday, April 26, 1993 in Washington, D.C. Fifteen years in the planning, the project cost over \$160 million. Even

Horrors of Nazi Terror Vividly Shown As Holocaust Museum Opens

By Terry Boughner

On Friday afternoon, April 23, I went through the National Holocaust Museum in Washington. I'm still not sure I should have done it, but I did.

I have been to both Dachau and Auschwitz. The museum building, made of brick, concrete and gray steel, is designed to be frighteningly reminiscent of those and the other camps. I literally shuddered when I saw it. Even the elevators are constructed to look like gas chambers inside. The feeling I got when the doors slid shut behind me was terrible beyond words.

There are four floors of exhibits that tell the story of the Nazi horror from the beginning to its fiery end. In between those times, 10 million plus people were slaughtered; Jews, Gays, Lesbians, Gypsies and others.

Perhaps the saddest part of the whole experience is that Lesbians and Gays have been almost totally ignored by the Museum. This, despite the promises that we would be remembered.

To put it mildly, the exhibits are graphic. There is nothing at all left to the imagination. For example, there is a chilling model of a gas chamber stuffed with 1,000 or more people. You can see them, see their faces. You can see the anguish and the horror as they die. Women clutch babies to their naked breasts. Men writhe in convulsions brought on by the gas. It took approximately 20 minutes to die.

There is a boxcar. It's a small thing, of the kind that they crammed with 100 plus people. Half or more would die on the trip. I walked into it and in the dim light could almost see and did feel the ghosts of those suffering, tormented people being carted off to die.

There are films and photos of terrible things, vicious almost beyond the imagination. In one set of photographs a young man is shown. I'd seen those photos before at Dachau. They show a Gay man being boiled alive in some kind of medical experiment.

For me, perhaps the worst sight of all was a display of black and white prison shirts. One was smallish, the kind that would fit a small-boned man. On the right side was sewn a Pink Triangle.

I stood staring at that shirt, wondering who he was; what was his name? He was Gay, just like me. Who had loved him? Who had he loved in return? What were his hopes, his dreams? What were his thoughts as he was murdered for being Gay? I would never know. There was only his shirt as a memory of him. Finally, I turned away in tears.

Perhaps the saddest part of the whole experience is that Lesbians and Gays have been almost totally ignored by the Museum. This, despite the promises that we would be remembered. I can understand that they might not be able to find many artifacts of Gay people in the camps, but even the historical accounts that they have don't mention us. Hence, they are wrong. Honest to God, the truth should be told — at least by someone.

That history would say that a million and a half to three million Lesbians and Gay men were slaughtered by the Nazis. That history would say that we were the first to be rounded up and put into the camps. That history would say that shared the agonies of others; the berserker rage of the macho Nazi state.

One question: how much has changed? Perhaps not as much as people would like to think. As Jesse Jackson would later say, the exact same prejudice and hatred exists today, whipped up against us by the likes of Pat Robertson, Pat Buchanan and others closer to home, right here in Milwaukee.

I would see the signs along the route of the March being held high by the "Christians." They would call for death for Gays much in the same way that the Nazis did. This same group of "Christians" would appear outside the Museum protesting the memorial service



Jerry Johnson

though about five million Gays died in the Holocaust, the Gay exhibit is tiny and nearly insignificant. Shown above are two of several slides shown on a T.V. monitor.

for Gays and Lesbians. Apparently, in their eyes, Hitler and company hadn't gone far enough. There are still more Lesbians and Gays to be killed. Is that it?

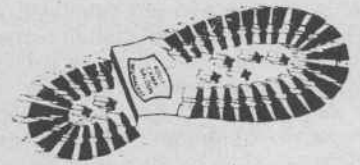
I left the museum feeling anger, frustration, rage, sorrow and god knows what other feelings — helplessness among one.

That night, at the memorial service to honor Lesbians and Gay men who had died in the Holocaust, some self-proclaimed Fundamentalist Christians showed up with signs calling for death to Gays.

For a long time afterward, I wasn't sure that I could attend the March. Why bother? What's the use? But then, something happened.

If you get to D.C., go to the Holocaust Museum by all means, but don't, I warn you, go alone. Another piece of advice: get your tickets at TicketMaster before

you leave — and get them well ahead of time. Tickets are free, although there is a TicketMaster service charge. Tickets are sold out for the next three months.



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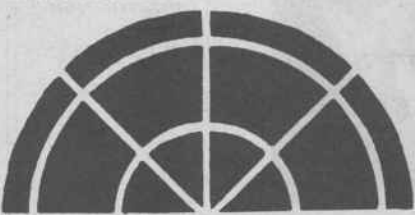
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After The March On Washington The Numbers Debate Began

By Terry Boughner

On Sunday night, with the end of the March on Washington, people gathered in Dupont Circle to squeeze some last celebration from the March weekend and to debate the numbers present and what it all meant. Among those was Bill Edlebeck of Port Washington in Wisconsin, Thomas Mondares of Riverside, California and Patrick McGrath, a reporter for the Fox News Network.

Much of the discussion centered on the numbers. The 300,000 figure given out by the National Park Service for the numbers attending the March was strongly denounced by both Edlebeck and Mondares.

Edlebeck said that he believed that "the numbers will become irrelevant." He felt the real impact of the March would be found in the economic impact made by the marchers.

Mondares agreed, saying that "it would almost be good if they said 300,000 because at that point we could say 'Well, hey, look what they did and it was only 300,000 people.'"

Mondares went on to add that "We, as a people, 1.3 million plus, would have to go back to all of our homes... and tell them what really went on here." That, he said would be the real impact of the March; it's effect at home.

However, McGrath added that in his 15 years plus experience in covering marches and demonstrations in Washington, "I thought it was the biggest I'd ever covered." This, he cautioned, "was not a scientific estimate," but only based on his experience.

He added, however, that Park Service was well known as being conservative in its estimates and had a "poor and antiquated way of making estimates. They make estimates," he said, "based on people using the subway and a few other cockamamie things."

McGrath said that in his opinion, the

real importance of the March would be in the national debate that it caused.

Right now, he said, "There's a lot of public sympathy in the country for not discriminating against Gays." He felt, for example, that the military ban against Gays and Lesbians would soon be lifted. Other laws discriminating against homosexuals would also be abolished. However, he cautioned, as other issues are raised, then the debate will begin.

McGrath warned that some aspects of the Gay movement "frightened people." He used the example of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. "People see Gays like this and get scared," he said. "What they see is the rest of the Gay community tolerating those people in their midst," so they think that all Gay people are like that.

McGrath did say that the vast majority of the people at the March were "dressed like tourists in Washington." However, he admitted, the media honed in on the few.

People don't want to discriminate, he said, "but they don't want this kind of behavior either."

Another question that McGrath saw was the question of whether homosexuality was genetic or environmentally caused. If it was the former, then "the problem pretty much goes away."

If, the latter, he said, then people will question if accepting homosexuality as a perfectly acceptable alternative lifestyle will endanger their children. "They'll look at their kids and fear they'll adopt the Gay lifestyle," he said.

McGrath said that the prime effect of the March would be to begin the debate, "the engaging of the issues," in the country on homosexuality. Unlike the Pro-Choice people vs. the Anti-Abortionists, he hoped that Gay people and straights "will talk to each other" not at each other.

Dykes To Watch Out For



With A Million Marchers In D.C. Was There Anyone Left At Home?

Commentary By Mark Behar

Not all of us will be attending the 3rd March on Washington. There, I've said it! Although we weren't part of the 500,000, 1 million, 2 million or more who, as of this writing, are projected to attend, we are still a part of a very important community. But exactly how large that community is, even now, is subject to controversy and debate.

Up until now, we have always based our estimates of the size of our community on the Kinsey studies of the late 1940's. Researchers revisiting the question in the 1970's, reaffirmed that 1 in 10 view. Until now.

John O.G. Billy of the Battelle Human Affairs Research Center in Seattle conducted a sociological study published by the progressive Alan Guttmacher Institute, that interviewed over 3,330 men throughout the country in 1991. Surprisingly, they found that only 2.3% of those interviewed admitted to a same sex experience in the last ten years; only 1.3% said they have been exclusively Gay. This reinforces other recent studies that estimated no more than 6% had any same-sex sex.

Although most of us believe in our

heart of hearts that these are gross underestimates, the controversy will continue to be fueled by experts and homophobes from everywhere. There are serious methodological flaws, for example, in face-to-face interviewing that diminishes the validity of any study on sexual attitudes and activities.

But to paraphrase Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, our agenda isn't derived from our sheer numbers, but by the fact that "...we're discriminated against because of who we are."

Non- Marchers: Get Involved

Here's how the non- Marchers can get involved! Exactly how well attended will Lesbian and Gay establishments, bars and organizations be during the March weekend (and at other times) in cities around the country? Bartenders could estimate attendance (and bar owners record sales) during the big weekend when "everyone" is supposed to be in D.C.

Will San Francisco's Castro, West Hollywood, Houston's Montrose, Chicago's Halsted and Greenwich Village turn into ghost towns, or will they be bustling as always, with different

Gay/Lesbian clients? Or will they be transformed into straight "havens" for the weekend?

The March weekend presents a unique opportunity for all of us not attending the March to come up with novel and innovative ways to encourage, support, nurture and promote each of our local Lesbian and Gay communities throughout

America.

Editor's Note: The writer is treasurer of the Lesbian and Gay Physician Assistant Caucus of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the co-producer of the Cream City Foundation's Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Network and a long-time Gay activist.

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International Mr. Leather Highlights Milwaukee Leather Weekend May 7-9

[Milwaukee]- Len Broberg, International Mr. Leather, heads the list of celebrities coming to Milwaukee for the Leather community's big weekend, May 7-9, 1993. He and other well-known names from the international Leather community will assist the Wisconsin L/L Clubs select a new Wisconsin Daddy and Daddy's Boy.

The Argonauts of Wisconsin, Castaways MC, DAMES, Oberons and The Unicorns of Madison have joined forces for this second annual event to be held at the three Milwaukee Leather Bars. Thus far, prizes in each contest total over \$700, including over \$500 in custom leather. Potential Daddys and Daddy's boys wishing to enter the contest can get information from any of the above groups

or bars listed below.

The Boot Camp Saloon will host the Friday kick-off party and Sunday's wind-down.

The Wreck Room will host the Boy Contest on Friday.

The 1100 Club will host the Daddy Contest.

Other events scheduled for the weekend will include buffets and afterhours parties.

Tickets for most events are available at the door as well as in advance. Persons are encouraged to arrive early for choice seating. Invitations to the afterhour parties must be obtained in advance. Contact any of the groups or the three bars for further information.

Gay Talk Show Hits Boston Airwaves

[Boston, MA]- A Gay radio talk-show hit the commercial airwaves October 5, 1992, bringing a new perspective to Boston radio, its hosts say.

An article in the October 23 *Boston Phoenix*, a weekly newspaper, names Mary Breslauer and Michael Smith as hosts of the Monday night show, called *One in Ten*.

The show focuses on three elements — news and politics, human interest and arts and entertainment — Smith said. It also has a call-in segment, which has drawn straight as well as Gay callers.

One in Ten is broadcast from 10:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. on WFNX-FM 101.7 in Boston.

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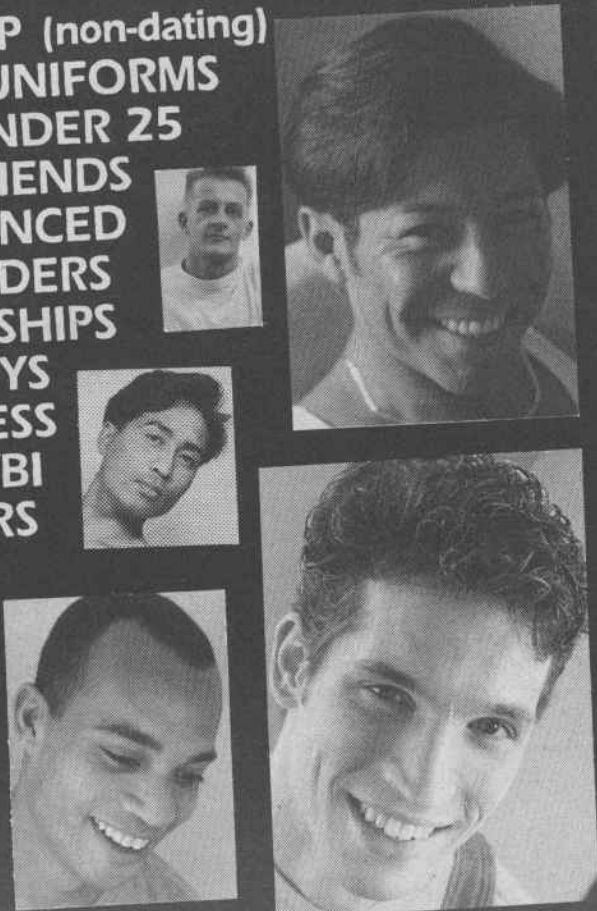
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MARCH Continued from Page 1

started to sing until the vaulted roof echoed with the sound. Perhaps you had to be there, but I can tell you that the effect was electric. These were my people and I was a part of them. I had never felt anything quiet like that before and it nearly brought tears.

It was then, if not before, that I realized how much "one" we really are. Over and over again I had heard expressed in one way or another, that we had all come to Washington having come through similar oppressive experiences; that we had all suffered at the hands of bigots, religious-right Nazis. It was this feeling of being an oppressed people, a Queer people, that united us behind our rainbow flags, Pink Triangles and other symbols and common terms like "Queer." The word may not be to everyone's taste, but my impression is that it has come to stay.

Another impression is that this is a community that is going beyond that idea that "Gay" or "Lesbian" is a sexual act. Being Queer (the most common word used), has to do with who you fall in love with; who it is you want to spend the rest of your life with.

I must have talked to a hundred people, maybe more, in the days that I was there, and asked them what it meant to be Queer. The response from women and men was pretty much the same. "I want a partner (or I have a partner). I want that relationship to be legitimized. I want to be able to walk down the street and hold hands. I don't want to be afraid anymore."

This, incidentally, seemed to be the main concern: "I don't want to be afraid anymore." And this, I think, is what made the March weekend so magical. For a few brief hours, no one was afraid to be exactly who we are.

The March On Washington people developed a whole, long list of causes that we should support. They are all good causes — drugs, foreign policy and a lot else. But these were not the central issues that concerned the Marchers, not if their words and banners are any indication; not if the applause for speakers meant anything.

When speakers mentioned civil rights, the shouts and applause was thunderous. When they spoke of things like statehood for D.C., drugs, or foreign policy issues, the response was subdued.

My impression is that Queer Marchers were concerned with one thing: our rights

as Gay people to live and love without fear or discrimination. For those who stayed away from the March because of the causes they disagreed with, I would say they missed the boat. They misjudged the community (and, as I say, there is a community. Believe it or not, there is one).

Yet another impression is that AIDS was not a central theme to the March. Make no mistake. The terrible disease was not forgotten, not by any means. But it wasn't central. It wasn't the main theme.

At the March, AIDS took its place beside determination to lift the military ban (surely the largest concern at the March), and with concerns over civil rights and fitting in with the mainstream. Thus, my impression is that these young people are more conservative than we were in my day.

Perhaps this is because they are more sure of themselves. They are more determined. They are more self-confident and self-aware. They don't need the radical and the outrageous to prove who they are. There is still the "In-your-face" attitude, but it's more quietly intense than what the '70's or '80's knew.

This was a happy crowd. The word "jubilant" is not too strong. But even that word is more laid-back than its usual definition.

On Sunday afternoon, at the conclusion of the March, I looked out over the crowd at the hundreds of thousands of people and knew I would miss them all. I hadn't met more than a relative handful. I didn't know them at all, but I was part of them, I really was, and I would miss them. It was sad, a nostalgia-like feeling. To leave them was going to be like leaving home.

One thing I got from the March is that we Gay people are on the cutting edge of creativity and change. We carry in our baggage the ideals of freedom, equality, hope, liberty and all the rest.

While our right-wing enemies are intellectually and morally bankrupt, it is we who have the new energies of creativity. It is we Queer People who are and will create new literature, art, poetry and all the rest.

It is we Gay people who will redefine American society. It is we Gay people who will abolish gender stereotypes and allow everyone to love who they will.

Will we then have heaven on earth? I think not. But America and the world will be a better place when we win. In fact, it frightens me to think what this country will be like if we do not.

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1,000 Images of the March Blend Into A Mosaic of Community Feeling

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee] For me, a thousand images of the March On Washington come together and blend into a marvelous mosaic of a community feeling itself free — if only for a weekend. Let me try and describe a little bit of it.

Dupont Circle, Friday and Saturday nights before the March, was jammed out of its mind. On the streets leading off the Circle, one could barely walk.

Of course, everywhere one looked (and I did look), there were the beautiful people, the ones with honey-nut skin, physiques to die for, wearing clothes so that what you didn't see, they pointed to. But then, there was all the rest of us, letting our eyes wander where our hands must never go.

On one side of the Circle, the Pagans were holding a ceremony to conjure up good weather for March Day. I guess it worked because Sunday was absolutely beautiful. Nearby, a couple of kids, each no more than 9 or 10, were selling little plastic rainbow flags. A woman bought a handful of them and began handing them out in the crowd to anyone who wanted one.

There were rainbow flags flapping in the breeze and flying from windows in buildings around the circle. There were Pink Triangle buttons and buttons of every other kind as well.

In addition, there was such an abundance of different T-shirts that the phrase "read the crowd" took on a whole new meaning.

There were T-shirts reading "All Dykes Love Dogs" and "All Dykes Love Cats." There was one reading "Lesbians Against Good Music." I have no idea what that meant.

There were T-shirts and buttons reading, "Apples Aren't The Only Fruits In Washington State," "Hate Is Not A Family Value," and those supporting "Vaginal Pride." One shirt read, "If only Pat Buchanan's Mother Had Had A Choice." Another said, "You Can Tell The Christians By Their Guns" and another that said, "If Jesus Were Here, He Would Be Marching Too" and yet another saying, "Dear Jesus, Protect Me From Your Followers."

Since one of the central motifs of the March was lifting the military ban, perhaps fully half of the shirts and buttons had to do with that. But in addition to T-shirts and buttons, there were also "Lift The Ban" pants that were selling rather well. Of the rest, most called for civil rights.

People were selling all sorts of things to make a little money to pay for their trip (some of them, anyway). There were T-shirts (of course), rainbow flags, buttons and Queer Scouts selling Queer Scout cookies.

Aside from the more humorous and colorful aspects of the March, there were the touching scenes as well. I saw one young man, his legs terribly deformed, pushing another young man in a wheelchair. They were lovers. They'd been together, they said, for 10 years. It was beautiful.

There were many such beautiful sights. There were couples holding hands, just strolling along. Now and again, they would exchange a kiss and smile. But in the Dupont Plaza hotel was one couple I will never forget.

I had gone into the hotel lounge to get away from some rain. There, across from me sat a male couple. One was older, in his mid-50's, perhaps. He was good-look, dignified with his gray hair.

The other was a younger man, in his late 20's, an wonderfully handsome Asian man with the looks of a god in the misty eastern forests at dawn.

I watched them. I could not help it. They treated each other with such loving care and the looks they exchanged, spoke of tenderness beyond the ordinary. I thought that they had to be in the first bloom of their love.

But when I talked to them, I discovered that they'd been together, been married, for 13 years.

For me, they and the guy pushing his lover in a wheelchair pretty well summed up what the March was all about.

There was one other scene I will never forget, this time in the parade. A young man was walking along carrying a sign saying he was marching for his best friend. The sign gave the dates of the friend's birth and his death. The latter date was April 23, 1993.

March Day

On Thursday morning, it snowed, a real blizzard. On Sunday, the air was warm, the sun was a hazy bright. As I wandered down the Mall, all I could see was people,

hundreds of thousands of people, Gay people as far as the eye could see (I kid you not). I wondered to myself how they were ever all going to get into some kind of order to march, but they all did — eventually.

A man dressed as Santa Claus, all in lavender, wandered around, doing the ho-ho-ho bit. Everywhere there were the banners of the states. The one from Colorado was huge, a black banner with stark white letters spelling out the name of the state as if in mourning.

The banner from Rhode Island had models of Rhode Island Red chickens on it. The banner from Los Angeles was done in shocking pink.

There were flags, rainbow flags by the hundreds and state flags too. For awhile, I was tempted to believe that every other flag was from Texas.

There were flags from Canada, the Puerto Rican emblem and one from the British contingent and Australia too.

In the line of March, it was hard to tell if there was any particular order to it all. As we passed the White House, I saw Park Police mounted on horses, guarding the black, iron fence. Nearby was a group holding up a sign reading "Rocket Scientists for Gays." They applauded as a women's group started singing "As the Dykes Go Marching In."

Along the route, on-lookers were 5-6 rows deep on either side, cheering and applauding the Marchers. This is what we had all come for, I thought. This was our day!

Not too far along, in front of the Treasury Building, was a small group of Christian Fundamentalists. They carried signs reading "Death to Fags!" "God Wants Fags Dead" "Repent Sodomites" and "Lesbians Are Witches. They Need Husbands." One man kept shouting that "All Women need is a good man." The Marchers returned the taunting with cries of "Shame! Shame! Shame!" and kept going. I thought of the lovers I'd seen and wondered at the stupidity of the Christian Nazis.

Dick Sergeant came riding along in a golf cart. He told me that "This is the happiest day of my life." He also said that he was disappointed that President Clinton wasn't at the March. In this, he echoed a considerable number of Marchers and speakers who condemned Clinton for "not keeping his promises."

The largest contingents in the Parade were P-FLAG, ACT UP, The African American Unity Group, Colorado, (by far, the largest unit in the Parade), and the units representing the Military, in no particular order.

The most colorful unit was the Gay Games unit carrying the flags of the nations. It was an impressive sight.

Each unit was greeted with wild enthusiasm, particularly the military units who were especially popular. Constantly, no matter what the March unit, was "Lift the Ban, Lift the Ban." The chant was raised to the echo.

Along came the Canadian contingent carrying a sign reading "1% My Ass!" This was followed by the NAMES Project Marchers bearing quilt panels. This brought a great hush over the crowd. This was at 2:10 p.m. It was the 10th unit in the Parade which had been going on for two hours. As it turned out, there were five hours left to go.

There is no way possible to describe it all. It was just too vast, too varied, too kaleidoscopic. But perhaps, this brief account gives some idea of what it was like.

Our Spirits Rose To New Heights As We Were the Majority in Washington

By Bill Meunier

With all of the controversy over how many people marched we risk losing sight of the spirit that the Washington experience brought to us.

Imagine being in a large city where WE are in the majority. Imagine being in a place where no matter where you were, or where you looked you saw openly Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people.

Like most of those who marched, there were many highlights for me. Here are just a few observations about the Washington I experienced.

THE METRO. You really had to be there to see the subways. The Metro became our nation's first Queer Railroad. Mobs of Lesbians and Gays cheered the trains as they arrived and waved as they left. We partied on the platforms, the escalators and in the cars. It was like being in a cave with hundreds of school kids and joining in their antics. Queer Railroad.

The Metro stations are huge caverns that hold several thousand people and were for the most part full of marchers. They cheered every train as it arrived, pointed at couples and yelled until they kissed, and waved with mock tears as trains going in the opposite direction left. And they did this by the thousands.

On our first train ride on Saturday we struck up a conversation with a group of Lesbians from Arizona. As everyone in the car erupted in laughter we discovered that Taco Bell uses Burro meat in its burritos, that Southwesterners do more than sell pottery at the road, (they sell cactus and chile peppers too), and that Arizona found out about the march from the Navaho's who learned about it from smoke signals sent by other tribes.

On Sunday on the way to the march, Scott Gunkel and I ran into a group of former Wisconsinites. Together we convinced a member of the Minnesota Freedom Band to play "On Wisconsin" on his french horn. With about twenty others we accompanied him singing Da Ta Da Da.... When we finished the car broke out in applause and cheers.

Later, that evening at the Du Pont Circle Metro station, people did the wave, screamed at those on the other side of the tracks, sang Good Bye to departing trains and chanted "We're tired. We're bitchy, we want our train NOW!"

THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON. The people of D.C. were fabulous. From the Police who willingly gave great directions to the Gay bars, to the elderly cashier at the National Art Gallery who kept telling us "Good luck tomorrow," they took us in like we were family. The cleaning man at the Sheraton National told some of those at a Pentagon banquet that he was glad that "his" hotel had so many marchers. "This is history" he said, "My wife keeps telling me to bring some home for dinner." The cab drivers kept congratulating us for having such a successful march. You really got the feeling that the people of Washington were as thrilled at what we had done as we were.

THE BARS. If there was a weak point it was the bars. Some charged \$20.00 cover in addition to charging \$3.50 and more for a can of beer. Worse, were the number of bars selling that Colorado beer, Coors, in defiance of the boycott. Some even sold Domino's pizza despite its founder/owner's support of White supremacist groups.

THE SPIRIT. The spirit was everywhere. I've never seen so many friendly people before. Perfect strangers from across the country were more than happy to talk and share information like they knew each other all their lives. You couldn't help but gain a deeper appreciation of the word "community" and you came away knowing that despite all of our differences we all stand on common ground. When two men kissed on the stairway of the East Wing of the National Art Gallery, the place erupted, even some of the straights applauded.

THE RALLY. The rally before the parade was great. We heard Phil Donahue tell America to "Get over it." We laughed at the Lesbian comics, one of whom told us she wouldn't want a Gay baby boy because "I know what kind of entrance you guys like to make."

We skipped rope with Hawaiians, munched on fabulous bagels being handed out for free and watched each other for sunburn.

SARGENT WOOTEN. My hotel hosted a banquet for Pentagon officers, one of whom made the mistake of asking me to take a picture of him and his wife. After I had done so, I asked him about the military ban. He explained how letting Gays in the military would destroy the military, not because there was anything wrong with them, but because others who don't like them would cause problems. When I asked them why, if that was true, the Pentagon suspended its discharges of known Lesbians and Gays and sent them to fight in the Gulf war, he scratched his collar and looked at his wife. She was looking at him as if to say "That's a good question dear, why don't you answer it." He never did answer, he just said "Well in four years I'll be out and it will be someone else's problem."

THE TRIP HOME. Nearly every rest stop from Washington to Milwaukee was crowded with marchers. At the Shell Station in downtown Frederick Md, I commented that it was too bad the Park Police weren't on hand to count us. A man from Michigan replied, "Nah they'd just sit here and say 'Ten cars? Must be four marchers.'"

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General Services

Penis Enlargement— Vacuum pumps & prof. instruction. Dr. Joel Kaplan (415) 739-5847. l

Organizations

Volunteers & Ideas Needed Hurricane Productions Womyn's Music & Culture, P.O. Box 71268, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

National Gay Pilot's Assoc. 703-660-3852.

GALANO CLUB. A social club serving the recovering Gay and Lesbian community. Regularly scheduled AA, NA, Al-Anon, ACOA and other 12-step meetings. Open nightly. 2408 N. Farwell Avenue, (414) 276-6936. x

Real Estate

I understand your special needs. Please see my display ad in the "Directory of Professionals" in this issue. David Chester, Federated Realty (414) 964-3900. z

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May 13; May 27; June 10; June 24; July 8; July 22;

71% Of Americans Say Gays Should Have Same Rights As Everyone

[Washington, D.C.]—On April 21, 1993, the Campaign for Military Service released a report on voter attitudes about lifting the ban against Gay men, Lesbians and Bisexuals in the U.S. military conducted by Mellman, Lazarus & Lake, Inc. which shows an enormous support among voters for equal rights for Gay men and Lesbians in the United States.

Voters also believe that President Clinton should prevail on his proposal to lift the ban against Gays and Lesbians in the military. Voters overwhelmingly disapprove of discharging Gay men and Lesbians who have not violated any rules from military service.

When asked whether homosexuals should have the same rights as everyone else, 71% agreed, 24% disagreed and 5% didn't know. Of those who agreed, 50% agreed strongly. Of those who disagreed, 15% disagreed strongly.

When asked to consider the case of a soldier or sailor who has performed well and has never violated military rules but is Gay or Lesbian, 69% said that person should not be discharged, while 22% said that they should. 62% agreed that the military should support President Clinton when he issues an order to lift the ban against Gay men and Lesbians.

Advocates For Battered Women Seek Volunteers

[Madison]—Dane County Advocates for Battered Women (DCABW) is currently recruiting volunteer and work-study advocates for their crisis line and children's programs. DCABW is a private, nonprofit agency committed to ending violence in the lives of battered women and their children.

Hundreds of women and men have dedicated their time to ending violence by volunteering at DCABW. Volunteer commitment varies but averages four to eight hours each week.

If you would like to join the ranks of people who want to be part of the solution, please call (608) 251-1237 for more information. Summer training begins June 1.

Battered/formerly battered women, persons of color, differently abled persons, persons over 40 and persons of all sexual orientations are encouraged to participate.

Wisconsin March T-Shirts Still Available

[Madison]—A limited number of the popular, rainbow-design Wisconsin March On Washington T-shirts are still available. To order one, please send \$15 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling to: "N. Sossen, 33 University Square, Box 234, Madison, WI 53715. To save the \$2.50 shipping charge, you may also pick up your shirt in Madison. Include your phone number with your order so you can be called to arrange pick-up. Shirts are also available at the Wisconsin National Organization for Women (NOW) office, 122 State Street in Madison.

Twenty percent of the profits from shirt sales go directly to NOW.

The report presents findings of a comprehensive study of public attitudes toward the military policy of banning and discharging homosexuals conducted by Mellman, Lazarus, Lake Inc. The investigation included a series of six focus group discussions in Dayton, Ohio; New Orleans, LA; and Tampa, FL. The sessions included a diverse selection of registered voters who are still making up their minds on this issue. Thus, voters who said they were strongly committed to either side of the questions were excluded from the sessions. The focus groups were moderated by Allan Rivlin of Mellman, Lazarus, Lake, Inc.

The focus groups were followed by a random survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted by telephone between the 26th and 31st of March, 1993. A random digit dialing technique was used to give every home telephone (including unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being called. The statistical margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 3.1%. The statistical margin of error for sub-samples of the survey will be larger and, of course, statistical error is just one type of error or bias that can affect survey results.

Federal Gay Civil Rights Bill In Works

[Milwaukee]—As we go to press, word has been received that a Gay civil rights bill has been drafted by Senator Ted Kennedy's (D-MA) office and Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) will become an original sponsor, reliable sources have told *Light*.

However, the bill has not been introduced and may not be for awhile until certain legal questions have been worked out. The proposed measure is now in the hands of the lawyers.

Among other things, the bill would bar discrimination against Lesbians and Gays in employment. That presents a problem as one source told *Light*. How do you know if an employer has employed any Gays or Lesbians?

That is all the information we have at this time, although more is expected later.

Retreat Offered For Persons Living With HIV

[Milwaukee]—"Renewing Life" is a program for making the most of life when living with a life-threatening illness. Durward's Glen Retreat Center, located in the heart of the beautiful Baraboo Bluffs, will host this unique spiritual/emotional/educational experience the weekend of July 16-18, 1993.

The retreat is designed to help persons infected with or affected by HIV disease to reframe their negative experience of illness into personal growth and emotional/spiritual well-being. For brochure or registration, please call Brother Stephen Braddock at (414) 771-6113 or Mr. Jeff Miller at (414) 259-6334.

President Clinton Appoints Gays To Important Government Posts

[Washington, D.C.]—On April 20, 1993, Coalition '93 announced the appointment of R. Paul Richard as Deputy Staff Secretary to the President at The White House. Richard is the first openly Gay man to occupy an office in the West Wing.

On April 24, 1993, The White House announced the appointment of two more individuals who are openly Gay to

important Administration posts.

Bruce Lehman, an expert in the field of intellectual property law, and a partner at the law firm of Swidler & Berlin, was announced as the President's choice for Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

Nan Hunter, a well-known civil rights lawyer and associate professor at Brooklyn Law School, was named Deputy General Counsel at the Department of Health and Human Services.

"President Clinton continues his commitment to appointing the best qualified people to serve our country," said Andrew E. Barrer, Coalition '93 Director. "Bruce Lehman and Nan Hunter represent the best our community and our country have to offer," Barrer said.

Coalition '93 is a coalition of 19 of the largest national Gay and Lesbian organizations in the country.

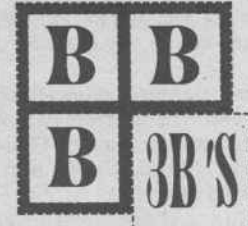
'Best Sex You Ever Had' Stories Sought For Book

[Boston, MA]—Brief (1-2 page) stories by Gay men are wanted for a collection being compiled by Jack Hart, author of the best-selling book *Gay Sex*. Contributors are asked to accurately recall an actual experience, and to describe what made it stand out.

Stories will be published anonymously and there is no payment; however, anyone who encloses an SASE with their story will get a coupon good for half-off on the published book. Send to: Jack Hart, c/o Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118. The deadline is July 2, 1993.

GALVANize Plans Open House To Plan '94 March

[Madison]—GALVANize, the Gay and Lesbian Visibility Alliance, will host an open house on Sunday, May 16, 1993 at the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Campus Center at 336 W. Dayton Street in Madison from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The open house kick-off offers the chance to informally exchange ideas about the 1994 March in Madison. The 1994 March will not only mark the 5th anniversary of GALVANize, but also mark the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. For questions or more information, please call (608) 256-4289.



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